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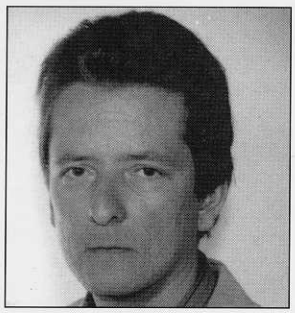
OSPREY PUBLISHING

# German Armies 1870–71 (2)

## Prussia's Allies

Michael Solka • Illustrated by Darko Pavlovic



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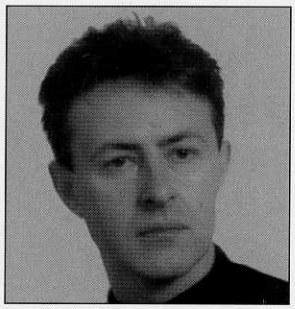

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Men-at-Arms • 422

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Michael Solka • Illustrated by Darko Pavlovic

*Series editor* Martin Windrow

# GERMAN ARMIES 1870–71(2): PRUSSIA'S ALLIES

## INTRODUCTION

AFTER PRUSSIA'S BRIEF and successful war against Austria in 1866, the German states south of the River Main were pressured by the Prussian prime minister, Otto von Bismarck, to sign secret defensive alliances. The Grand Duchy of Baden, alarmed by apparent French designs on the Rhineland, was Prussia's most enthusiastic disciple, adopting her military system in practically every respect. Württemberg, while adopting Prussian equipment and regulations for her troops, preserved her own uniforms and *Landwehr* organization. In January 1868 Bavaria also adopted conscription and many other features of Prussian military policy, but clung tenaciously to her independence over questions of armament, uniform, and tactical organization.

Although the French declaration of war on 17 July 1870 lit a flame of ardent patriotism throughout northern Germany, enthusiasm was somewhat less marked in the south. But there was a clear *casus foederis*, and the southern states had no excuse for evading their treaty obligations, even if they wished to do so. Bavaria and Baden began to mobilize on 16 July and Württemberg on the 17th. Within 18 days 1,183,000 soldiers, regular and reservist, passed through their barracks in Germany and were embodied in the wartime army. Some 462,000 of these were transported to the French frontier to play their part in the opening campaign.

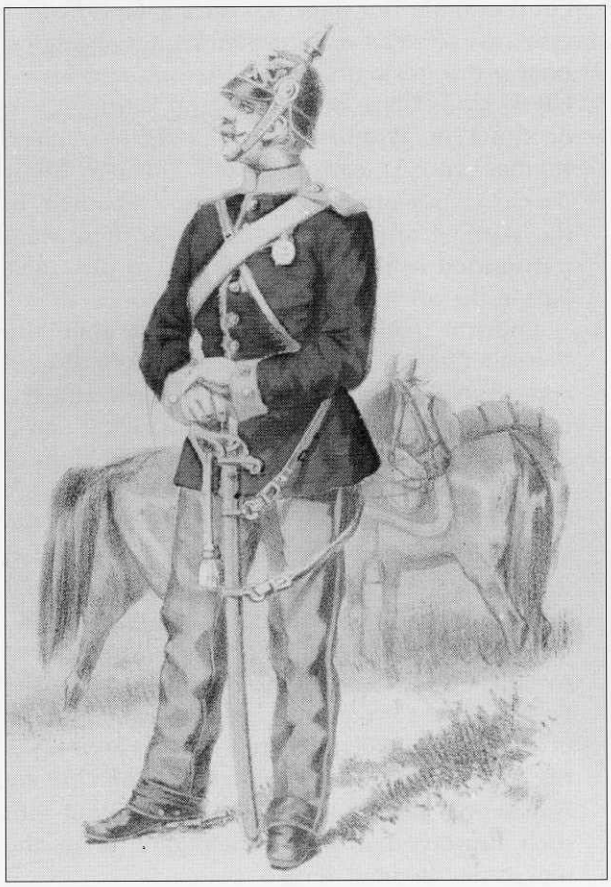
**Private of a Bavarian Jäger battalion, in his light blue uniform faced and piped with green; note the small shoulder 'wings'. The signal whistle just above his belt buckle is attached to the green cord – a marksmanship qualification – buttoned across his chest. (Author's collection)**

Political considerations dictated that the Prussian Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm should command the Third Army, in which served the troops of the southern German states. It was a delicate compliment to the thin-skinned kings of Bavaria and Württemberg, on whom Friedrich Wilhelm at once paid courtesy calls; but the appointment filled him with alarm. He regarded the contingents of South Germany as 'ill disposed towards us and quite untrained in our school', and unlikely to make much of a showing against so efficient and well prepared an enemy as the French. In the event, the Crown Prince was to be proved wrong. Württemberg's soldiers lived up to the good reputation they had won in the Napoleonic Wars; and the Bavarians fought with such bravery that the French gave them the nickname 'the blue devils'.

# BADEN

After the Prussian victory over Austria, the Grand Duchy of Baden wanted to become a member of the new North German Confederation; Count Bismarck denied Grand Duke Friedrich I this wish, in order not to provoke the French. In spite of this, on 17 August 1866 Baden and the other South German states signed a secret defensive alliance with Prussia. Unable to conclude an open military pact, the Grand Duchy prepared for an unofficial incorporation into the North German Confederation, adopting the Prussian military system and sending a number of her officers to serve with Prussian regiments. After their return they worked to instruct Baden's army in what they had learned. The army was increased to a strength of six infantry regiments organized in three brigades, one cavalry brigade of three dragoon regiments, one artillery brigade, two engineer companies, one stretcher-bearer company and one train unit. From 21 April 1869 the Baden field division was led by War Minister LtGen von Beyer, a Prussian; the new chief of the general staff, von Lesczynski, had also served previously in the Prussian Army.

**Trooper, Baden (1st) Life Dragoon Regiment. This cavalryman is still wearing the old mid-grey, leather-reinforced trousers with red stripes on the outer seams. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**



### General officers' uniforms

Dark blue double-breasted tunic with scarlet collar, cuffs, and piping on the front edge and rear skirts; 12 gilt front buttons and two on the rear. Gilt epaulettes or cord shoulder straps (no star for major-general, one star for lieutenant-general, two stars for general of cavalry or infantry). Dark blue frock coat with scarlet piping and yellow metal buttons. Blue-black trousers with scarlet piping on the outseams between two broad stripes, tucked into black riding boots.

For parade dress the headgear was the spiked helmet of the infantry with a white plume, and a red-yellow cockade around the left boss. On campaign generals wore a dark blue peaked service cap *(Dienstmütze)* with scarlet band bearing the Baden cockade, scarlet crown seam piping, and black leather peak.

Parade horse furniture included a black bearskin shabraque decorated with the star of the House Order of Loyalty on the rear corners and holster covers; black harness had yellow metal fittings. On campaign, a dark blue square-cut saddle blanket *(Unterlegdecke)* had a broad gold edge band. The pistol holster covers were of dark blue cloth edged with gold.

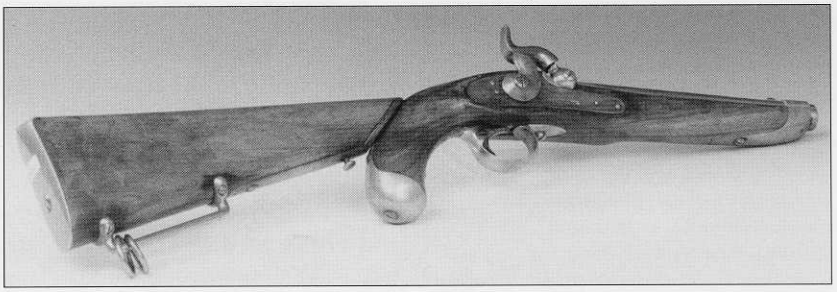
### CAVALRY

From 1867 each dragoon regiment had a fifth squadron. In 1870 the wartime establishment of a regiment was 19 officers, 61 NCOs, 14 trumpeters, and 503 troopers.

The light blue single-breasted tunic was secured by eight white metal front buttons, the rear skirts held back by three buttons on each side. The collar, 'Swedish' cuffs, shoulder straps and front edge/rear skirt piping were in regimental piping colours: red (1st Regt), bright yellow (2nd Regt), black (3rd Regt). Troopers of the (1st) Life Dragoon Regt had a bright yellow crown badge on their shoulder straps; the black shoulder straps of the 3rd Regt were piped red. Officers wore a silver sash shot through with red and yellow. Musicians had 'swallows' nests' in regimental colour with silver lace. Trumpets were brass with twisted yellow-red cords.

The dark grey single-breasted greatcoat had light blue shoulder straps piped in regimental colours (3rd Regt, red) and white metal buttons. The collar bore a patch in the regimental colour on each side, on which NCOs wore a white metal button. Tight blue-black riding breeches had black leather inserts on the inside of the legs, and were tucked into black knee-length riding boots with curved spurs.

The spiked helmet, almost identical to the Prussian M1860 dragoon helmet, had a squared white metal front peak and rounded rear peak, and brass chinscales with a red-yellow cockade around the right boss. A white metal rib ran down the rear of the helmet, and a white metal spike was fixed to a quatrefoil mount on the top. The helmet plate was a griffin above a banderole with the motto 'MIT GOTT FÜR FÜRST UND VATERLAND'. The light blue undress cap had the band and crown piping in the regimental colour and bore the Baden cockade on the band.



**Baden M1853 carbine-pistol *(Kolbenpistole)*; note the detachable shoulder stock which nominally turned it into a carbine by steadying the trooper's aim. Including the stock, it was 65.8cm long and weighed 2.15kg. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War this percussion weapon was already obsolete, but the Baden authorities gave a relatively lower priority to acquiring new firearms for the cavalry than the infantry. Shortly after the war Baden's cavalrymen exchanged the *Kolbenpistole* for the Prussian M1857 needle carbine. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**

### Equipment and armament

White leather pouch belt (officers, silver lace shot with red and yellow) with brass fittings, worn over the left shoulder. Black leather pouch, with brass flap ornament of a griffin on a trophy of arms. White waist belt and sabre slings. Carbine-pistol *(Kolbenpistole)* M1853 for the bulk of the dragoons; the 18 carabiniers of each squadron were probably still armed with the M1816/40 UM carbine. Austrian hussar sabre with white metal guard, steel scabbard. Red leather sword knot with tassel in squadron colours (1st, white; 2nd, red; 3rd, yellow; 4th, light blue; 5th, light green; yellow/red for NCOs).

**Horse furniture** Light blue rounded shabraque with edge piping and 4cm inset band in regimental colour; that of (1st) Life Dragoon Regt had a red crown in the rear corners. Two white linen bags were suspended behind the shabraque, and the greatcoat rolled and strapped to the rear. Saddlery was natural brown leather with white metal fittings.

**Standards** From 1869 each regiment carried a standard, the three differing only in the inscription on a brass ring around the shaft below the cloth. Square white field with gold fringe; in the centre, silver Baden griffin with red-yellow coat-of-arms surrounded by oak leaves, below red scroll with gold motto 'FIDELITAS', over all a gold crown; in each corner a crowned 'F' surrounded by a green laurel wreath.

**Table A: Baden Field Division**

Commander: LtGen von Beyer

*1st Infantry Brigade (LtGen von La Roche):*
(1st) Life (Leib-) Grenadier Regt; Fusilier Bn, 4th Inf R; (2nd) Gren R

*2nd Inf Bde (MajGen Keller):*
3rd IR; 5th IR

*Divisional troops:*
3rd Dragoon R; 1st Foot Unit, Field Artillery R; 1st Engineer Company

*Cavalry Bde (MajGen von La Roche-Starkenfels):*
(1st) Life Drag R; 2nd Drag R; Horse Battery

*Corps Artillery (Major Rochlitz):*
2nd Ft Unit, FA R; Train Bn

**The private of a Baden infantry regiment shown here is dressed for cold weather in the black-grey greatcoat. Apart from the cockade and the griffin plate on his helmet, and the dark blue shoulder straps with piping in regimental colours, the uniform is nearly identical to that of a Prussian infantryman. When not worn, the greatcoat was rolled up and carried over the left shoulder and across the body above the leather equipment, secured to the left shoulder by a white cord. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**

## INFANTRY

The dark blue single-breasted tunic had eight yellow metal front buttons; red piping to the front edge and rear skirts; a red collar, and a red three-button Brandenburg cuff without flap piping. The (1st) Life Grenadier Regt had 'Swedish' cuffs with two white lace bars, and the same on the collar. Shoulder straps: (1st) Life Grenadier Regt, white with red crown badge; (2nd) Grenadier Regt, white with red monogram 'WR' and crown; 3rd Regt, red; 4th Regt, pale yellow; 5th Regt, light blue; 6th Regt, light green. Straps bore red regimental numbers for regiments 4, 5, and 6, yellow for 3rd Regt. Musicians wore red 'swallows' nests' with white lace, superior ranks with gold lace and fringes. Prussian-style cord shoulder straps for officers.

The black-grey single-breasted greatcoat had yellow metal buttons. The dark blue shoulder straps were piped with the colour of the tunic shoulder straps, bearing red regimental numbers. Scarlet collar patches; for NCOs, with a yellow woollen braid and red stripe. Black-grey trousers with red outseam piping were worn tucked into black leather boots or over shoes according to the time of year.

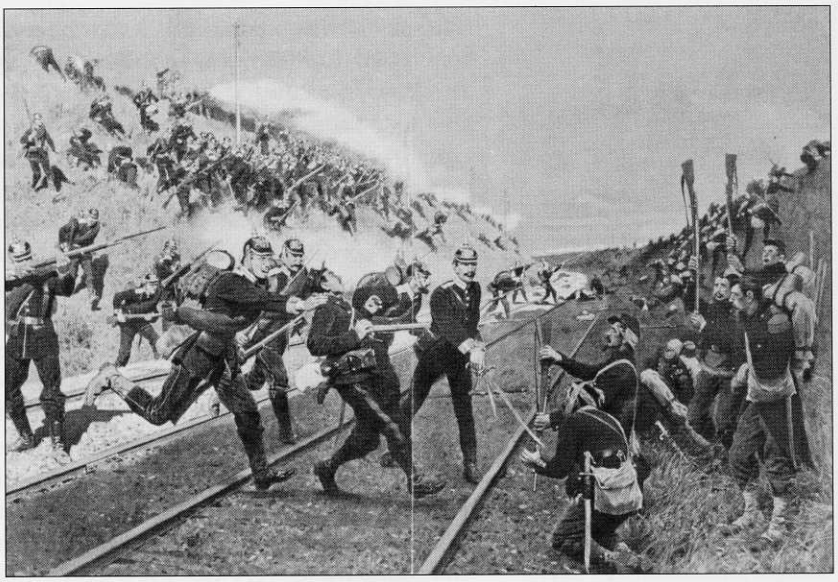
The M1867 spiked helmet of black polished leather had brass fittings and front peak binding. The brass chinscales, with a red-yellow cockade around the right boss, were often tightened and placed above the front peak. The helmet plate bore a griffin over a banderole with the motto 'MIT GOTT FÜR FÜRST UND VATERLAND'. The dark blue undress cap had a scarlet band and crown piping, and the Baden cockade on the band.

**Armament and equipment** Baden M1867 needle rifle, produced at Suhl; in addition, 16,000 Prussian M1862 needle rifles had been bought from Prussia in May 1867, and this weapon was issued to the (1st) Life Grenadier Regt, 5th Infantry Regt, and Baden engineer unit. The brass-handled fascine knife or 'brush cutter' sidearm had a white sword knot and tassel; the battalion and company colours of the sword knots, the leather equipment and knapsack were as for Prussian infantry. The brass belt buckle bore a silver crown and the motto 'GOTT MIT UNS'. Shallow brass drums had hoops of red and white diagonal 'teeth', white cords and apron, and wooden drumsticks painted black.

**Colours** Square white field with gold fringe. On the obverse, the monogram 'L' (the recently raised 3rd Bns had 'F'). On the reverse, variously embellished coat-of-arms surmounted by a crown.

## ARTILLERY & TECHNICAL TROOPS

After the adoption of the Prussian military system, Baden's artillery was organized into a field artillery regiment with seven batteries and a



**The Baden Life Grenadiers capture the railway embankment near Nuits on 18 December 1870. When a part of the Army of the Loire tried to relieve Belfort the attempt was frustrated by Baden infantry, who beat the French back despite fierce resistance. Note the French soldiers holding their rifles butt-upwards as a sign of surrender. (Carl Röchling)**

fortress battalion of five companies. The field artillery was equipped with the new Krupp breech-loading guns (8cm C/64 and 9cm C/67), and had six pieces per battery, manned by 150 gunners. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were initially painted olive-grey, the barrels and all fittings black; from spring 1871, olive was replaced by mid-blue as on Prussian gun carriages.

Uniforms were as for Prussian artillerymen, apart from the helmet plate and cockade.

**Engineers** In 1867 the engineers received the Prussian engineers' uniform, the only differences being the cockade, the white metal helmet fittings and the brass chinscales.

**Train** On 12 April 1870, Baden's train unit became an independent detachment. The uniform was as for infantry but with a light blue collar, cuffs and shoulder straps (to which, in 1871, a red '14' was added). Officers received a spiked helmet with squared front peak and gilt fittings, the rankers a shako. However, the distribution of the shako doubtless took some time, and the Train soldiers probably went to war in a dark blue undress cap with light blue band and crown piping.

**Medical service** A stretcher-bearer company had been raised in 1859, and transformed in 1870 into a field ambulance detachment *(Sanitäts-detachement)* on the Prussian pattern. Together with five field hospitals, this unit cared for the field division during the war against France. From 1868 the uniform of medical personnel was in accordance with Prussian practice apart from the cockade and helmet fittings.

## BAVARIA

In peacetime all 16 infantry regiments of the Bavarian Army consisted of a regimental depot and three field battalions, each battalion having a strength of 380 men divided into four companies each of 95 men. Upon mobilization battalion strengths were increased to 1,042 men, giving the companies a strength of about 260 men in line with the Prussian model.

The 32 *Landwehr* battalions had a peacetime cadre of 64 men each, but expanded to 800 upon mobilization. The peacetime establishment of the Bavarian cavalry regiments was five 120-man squadrons, of which the first four were designated field squadrons and the fifth a depot squadron. Upon mobilization the field squadrons were brought up to a war establishment of 145 men, giving a regimental strength of 583 men.

Officers had the following rank distinctions: three lace bars (gold or silver according to the button colour) on each side of the collar for a captain, two for lieutenant, and one for second lieutenant. Field officers had additional collar edging in gold or silver, with three bars for colonel, two for lieutenant-colonel and one for major. Gold or silver shoulder tabs were edged with the colour of the collar for infantry and engineer officers; cavalry officers had silver shoulder scales, and those of the artillery and train, gilt scales.

NCOs had white or yellow woollen braid trimming along the top edge of the collar. In gala dress trumpeters wore two long 'wings' *(Trompeterflügel)* fastened from the back of the shoulders to the back of the waist; these were not used in the field, but trumpeters' collars and cuffs had gold or silver edging.

**Lieutenant of the Bavarian 1st Cuirassier Regt in parade dress; compare with Plate B1. The trousers *(Ordonnanzhose)* have broad red stripes down the outseams. Bavarian Cuirassiers did not discard their body armour and steel helmets (see page 45) until 1878. (Private collection)**

### General officers' uniform

Light blue single-breasted tunic, scarlet collar piped with light blue, scarlet cuffs and piping; silver buttons, elaborate silver embroidery on collar and cuffs. On campaign a light blue double-breasted frockcoat with embroidered collar was usually worn. The dark grey double-breasted greatcoat had a light blue collar piped red, and white metal buttons. Light blue trousers had red outseam stripes, and were tucked into black leather knee-length boots.

Generals serving with the infantry wore a light blue peaked cap *(Schirmmütze)* with light blue band piped red around the top edge and the crown seam. Above the band was a silver crown badge within a laurel wreath. Black leather chinstrap *(Sturmband)*. Generals of mounted troops wore the M1825 black felt bicorn without its white plume.

Under an English saddle the scarlet shabraque had an 8.5cm silver braid edging, and the silver royal monogram 'L' in the lower rear corners. Black bearskin holster covers; black leather bridle with white metal fittings. Since April 1859 all generals carried a sabre of the model appropriate to their last rank before promotion to general rank.

## CAVALRY

### Cuirassiers

The tunic for summer was a short, light blue, single-breasted *'Spenser'*, and for winter a longer *Waffenrock*. Red collar, and piping on the cuffs,

front edge and rear skirts. White metal fringeless shoulder scales underlayed with red cloth. The nine buttons were white (1st Regt) or yellow metal (2nd Regt); officers' buttons were silver or gilt. Trumpeters wore uniforms as enlisted men but without the cuirass; brass trumpets with twisted white and light blue cords and tassels.

The single-breasted greatcoat was white with white metal buttons and a light blue collar piped red. Trousers were light blue with red outseam stripes and black leather reinforcement, worn over black shoes. The M1842 steel helmet (for officers, M1845) had a tapering neck guard. Brass chinscales were secured by lion's-head bosses, with the Bavarian cockade (white-light blue-white) above the left boss; the brass comb had a black horsehair crest, and the brass plate bore the monogram 'L II'. The light blue M1838 peaked undress cap had scarlet piping around the crown seam and the top of the light blue band. Above the band was a white cloth crown badge (for officers, silver, within a laurel wreath); below it, a black leather chinstrap.

**Armament and equipment** Straight M1826 sword *(Pallasch)* with white knot; steel scabbard attached to waist belt by white leather slings. The obsolete M1843 percussion pistol was carried in a holster in front of the shabraque. In July 1869 the issue of the M1869 Werder pistol began, but it was to be 1872 before this weapon was carried by all Cuirassiers. The steel cuirass had brass fittings and red felt lining showing at the neck, arm apertures and bottom edge; it was secured by a narrow black leather waist belt. White leather pouch belt with black cartridge pouch. Glass water bottle with leather cover.

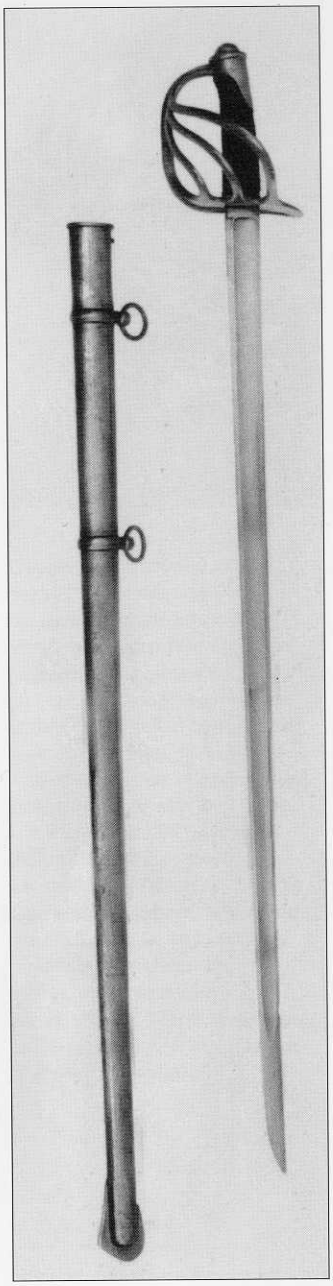
**Horse furniture** Round-cornered shabraque in light blue with red edging and red embroidered crown in lower rear corners. Light blue portmanteau piped red, with red regimental number on either end. Natural brown leather saddle. From September 1867 officers used a black sheepskin *(Sattelpelz)* edged in light blue instead of the shabraque.

**Standards** Each regiment had two square standards. The basic design of all these was similar: on one side the crowned and mantled royal arms surrounded by a wreath, and on the other the crowned monogram 'MJK', also encircled by a laurel wreath. One of each pair had a white field (monogram on obverse); the other, a light blue field (royal arms on obverse). All standards had gold embroidery and fringes; the staffs were light blue with gilded spearhead finials.

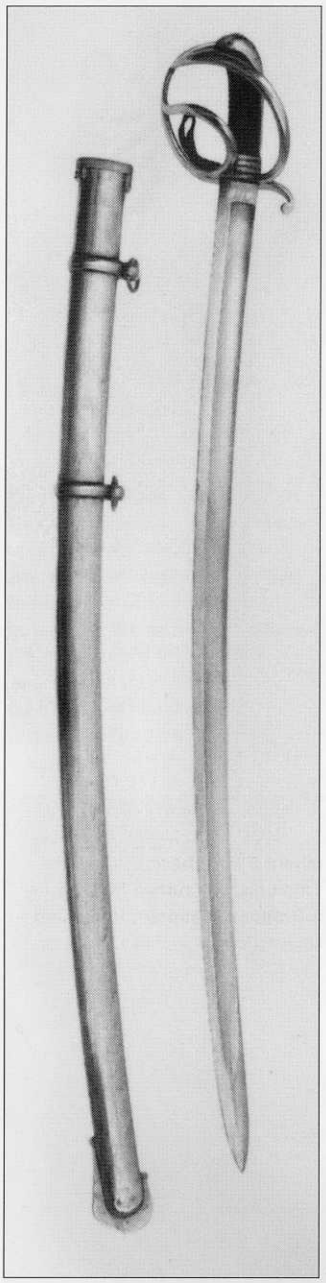
### Chevaulegers

The Light Horse wore in summertime a dark green double-breasted *Spenser*, with a double row of eight buttons: yellow metal (1st, 3rd & 5th Regts), white metal (2nd, 4th & 6th Regts). The collar, and piping on the front edge and rear skirts, were in regimental colours: crimson (1st & 2nd Regts); rose-red (3rd & 6th Regts); red (4th & 5th Regts). The longer single-breasted winter tunic had the same distinctions, except for cuffs in the regimental colours. The white metal shoulder scales were underlayed with cloth in the regimental colours. Officers' uniform was as for enlisted men.

The single-breasted greatcoat was very dark green with seven white metal buttons, and a dark green collar edged in the colour of the tunic collar. Legwear was as for the Cuirassiers but in dark green.



**Bavarian M1826 *Pallasch*, with a blade 96.77cm long and an overall weight of 1.36kg. This weapon has a brass basket hilt, and a black leather grip bound with brass wire. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**



**Bavarian M1826 cavalry sabre, with a slightly curved blade and a steel basket hilt. The overall length is 100.04mm, and the weight including the steel scabbard, 2.06kg. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**

Headgear was a crested helmet *(Raupenhelm)*, either the M1861 with brass chinscales or M1868 with black leather chinstrap; only a minority wore the latter. These had brass lion's-head bosses, with the Bavarian cockade above the left boss; the front peak was bound in brass, and the front ornament was a brass Gothic 'L'; a white horsehair plume (for officers, white ostrich plume) was added for parades. The dark green peaked undress cap was piped in regimental colour on the crown seam and the top of the dark green band. Above the band was a white or yellow cloth crown badge, below it a black leather chinstrap.

**Armament and equipment** From 1866 it was intended that the Chevaulegers should be armed once again with carbines. A carbine version of the excellent M1869 Werder rifle was tested before the Franco-Prussian War, but none were available for troop issue, and consequently 500 Prussian M1857 carbines were issued to the Bavarian Chevaulegers. In the course of the war the 4th Chevaulegers finally received 80 of the M1869 Bavarian carbines. The Chevaulegers were also armed with the M1843 percussion pistol, though according to one contemporary source this was more useful as a missile than as a firearm... The M1826 cavalry sabre was carried in a steel scabbard. Pouch and waist belts were white leather, the pouch black leather. A glass water bottle and a white canvas haversack were carried on the left side, slung over the right shoulder. Officers' pouch belts and pouches had red Morocco leather covers, with small silver buttons along the belt.

**Horse furniture** Dark green Prussian hussar-style shabraque edged in regimental colour, with a crown embroidered in the same colour in the lower rear corners. The portmanteau was dark green with end piping and regimental number in the regimental colour. Officers used a black sheepskin saddle cover with dark green 'vandyke' or 'wolf-tooth' edging.

### Uhlans

The tunic was as for the Chevaulegers but the regimental colour was carmine red. There was no coloured seam piping on the back or sleeves; white metal buttons bore the regimental number. The greatcoat was as for the Chevaulegers but with a crimson collar and no edging. Trousers were also as for the Chevaulegers.

The headgear was the M1864 czapka; the skull, chinstrap and front peak were of black leather while the upper 'mortar-board' was of stiffened felt covered with carmine cloth. The badge was as other Bavarian units; the cockade was worn on the front left edge of the upper section, above which was a white falling plume. On campaign a black oilskin cover was worn; cap lines were not provided at that date, although a red woollen cap line of Prussian pattern was favoured. The dark green peaked undress cap was piped carmine around the crown seam and the top edge of the dark green band, above which was a white cloth crown badge and below it a black leather chinstrap.

**Armament and equipment** M1843 pistol, M1826 cavalry sabre, and ashwood lance (length 2.63m) with a white-over-light blue pennon and black wrist strap. Horse furniture was as for the Chevaulegers but with carmine edging.

### INFANTRY

In 1870 there were nine Jäger battalions (Nos.1–9) and 16 infantry regiments (*Leibregiment* and IRs Nos.1–15).

### Jäger

Light blue single-breasted tunic with eight yellow metal front buttons with battalion numbers and three on each side of the rear skirts. Medium green collar, cuffs, and piping to front edge and rear skirts; medium green 'Swedish' cuffs secured by two buttons and wings *(Achselwülste)* on each shoulder. Green marksmanship cords with two green pompons were attached to the tunic chest. Buglers had their collar edged with yellow braid, and brass bugles with green cords. Officers wore the same uniform as enlisted men but their buttons were gilded.

The black-grey greatcoat had a light blue collar piped medium green around the lower edge, with a medium green patch on each side. When not worn, the greatcoat was rolled and slung around the body from the left shoulder to the right hip. The light blue trousers had medium green outseam piping, and were tucked into black boots *(Halbstiefel-Bundschuhe)* with two buckled straps; the boots were of poor quality, and many infantrymen had trouble with their feet.

The M1868 crested helmet had a green plume *(Huppe)* over the left boss. The light blue peaked undress cap had medium green piping around the crown seam and the top of the light blue band; a yellow cloth crown badge above the band; and a black leather chinstrap.

**Armament and equipment** Bavaria was the only state not to adopt needle-action rifles following the war of 1866. The Bavarian muzzle-loading Podewils were changed to breech-loaders, but kept the percussion ignition system (M1867 rifle); the version issued to the Jägers was shorter by 10.5cm. Because of its relatively slow reloading this weapon began to be replaced by the Werder rifle from 1869, but by the outbreak of the war only four Jäger battalions (Nos.2, 5, 9 & 10) had received it. A brass-hilted bayonet and M1838 fascine knife were carried in adjoining black leather scabbards on the left of the waist belt. Privates had black leather belts, straps, and a cartridge pouch (worn on the front when in action) with a brass hunting horn badge on the flap. A canvas haversack was slung on the left hip, and a glass water bottle on the right. The unshaven hide M1868 knapsack had the mess kit attached to it.

Officers were armed with the officer's M1855 sabre, and additionally carried a private purchase pistol or revolver in a natural leather holster on the front of the black waist belt. Red Morocco leather sabre slings had silver trimming. A black leather satchel for personal items was slung on the right side.

### Line infantry

The tunic was as for the Jägers but with red shoulder wings and piping. The buttons were white (Life Regt, IRs Nos.4–6 & 10–13) or yellow (Nos.1–3, 7–9, 14–15). The collar and cuffs were in regimental colours: red (Life Regt, IRs Nos.3 & 6); deep red (No.1); black (Nos.2 & 11); yellow (Nos.4 & 8); rose-red (Nos. 5 & 7); crimson (Nos.9 & 10); orange (Nos.12 & 15); and dark green (Nos.13 & 14). The collars and cuffs of Nos.2, 11, 13 & 14 were piped red. Soldiers of the Life Regt had two bars of white lace on the cuffs. Drummers (boys between 15 and 17 years) were dressed as enlisted men but with collars and cuffs edged with braid trimming in button colour. The brass drums (weight 4.11kg) were deeper than the Prussian snare drums; the hoops were painted in light blue and white diagonal stripes, the cords were white, and the slings and apron black leather.

**Trooper, 5th Bavarian Light Horse (Chevaulegers) Regt, in his dark green *Spenser* with white metal shoulder scales, yellow metal buttons and red facings. He is still wearing the old M1861 crested helmet with brass chinscales. In 1859 the extensive leather reinforcement of the trousers was shortened, but it still reached 14.59cm (about 5¾in) above the knees. This unit was raised in 1775 as a Dragoon regiment, becoming Chevaulegers in 1811. During the Franco-Prussian War the 5th Chevaulegers fought at Wissembourg, Wörth and Sedan, and later took part in the siege of Paris. (H.Knötel)**

## Table B: Bavarian Army Corps

**I Army Corps (Gen von und zu der Tann-Rathsamhausen):**
***1st Inf Div (LtGen von Stephan):***
*1st Inf Bde (MajGen Dietl):* Inf Life R; I & II Bns, 1st IR; 2nd Jäger Bn. *2nd Inf Bde (MajGen von Orff):* 2nd IR; I & II Bns, 11th IR; 4th Jäger Bn. *Divisional troops:* 9th Jäger Bn; 3rd Chevauleger R; 1st, 3rd, 5th & 7th Ft Btys, 1st Arty R
***2nd Inf Div (MajGen Schumacher):***
*3rd Inf Bde (Col Heyl):* 3rd IR; 12th IR; 1st Jäger Bn. *4th Inf Bde (MajGen von der Tann):* 10th IR; 13th IR; 7th Jäger Bn. *Div troops:* 4th Chevauleger R; 2nd, 4th, 6th & 8th Ft Btys, 1st AR
*Cuirassier Bde (MajGen von Tausch):*
1st Cuirassier R; 2nd Cuirassier R; 6th Chevauleger R; 1st Horse Bty, 3rd AR
***Artillery Reserve, 3rd AR (Colonel Bronzetti):***
(1st Div) 2nd Horse Bty, 3rd & 4th Ft Btys; (2nd Div) 5th & 6th Ft Btys; (3rd Div) 7th & 8th Ft Btys
*1st Field Engineer Div (Maj Schnizlein):*
3 Fld Eng Cos

**II Army Corps (Gen von Hartmann):**
***3rd Inf Div (LtGen von Walther):***
*5th Inf Bde (MajGen von Schleich):* 6th IR; II & III Bns, 7th IR; 8th Jäger Bn. *6th Inf Bde (Col Börries von Witzell):* I & II Bns, 14th IR; 15th IR; 3rd Jäger Bn. *Div troops:* 1st Chevauleger R; 3rd, 4th, 7th & 8th Ft Btys, 4th AR
***4th Inf Div (LtGen von Bothmer):***
*7th Inf Bde (MajGen von Thiereck):* 5th IR; 9th IR; 6th Jäger Bn. *8th Inf Bde (MajGen Maillinger):* III Bn, 1st IR; III Bn, 5th IR; I Bn, 7th IR; III Bn, 14th IR; 5th Jäger Bn. *Div troops:* 10th Jäger Bn; 2nd Chevauleger R; 1st, 2nd, 5th & 6th Ft Btys, 4th AR
***Uhlan Bde (MajGen von Mulzer):***
1st Uhlan R; 2nd Uhlan R; 5th Chevaulegèr R; 2nd Horse Bty, 2nd AR
***Artillery Reserve, 2nd AR (Col von Billement):***
(1st Div) 1st Horse Bty; 3rd & 4th Ft Btys; (2nd Div) 5th & 6th Ft Btys; (3rd Div) 7th & 8th Ft Btys
*2nd Field Engineer Div (Maj Kern):*
3 Fld Eng Cos

The greatcoat was as for the Jägers but with lace collar bars in regimental colour; black and green bars were piped in red. The trousers were as for the Jägers but with red piping down the outseams. Infantry wore the crested helmet, M1861 or M1868; their peaked undress cap differed from that of the Jägers only in having red piping.

**Armament and equipment** Podewils rifle M1858 and M1867; during the war IRs Nos.12 & 13 were the first to receive the M1869 Werder rifle. Drummers were armed with a bayonet and fascine knife only. From 30 July 1870 captains were ordered to be mounted; however, for the most part they still went on foot, being unable to ride. Mounted infantry officers used a black sheepskin saddle cover with 'vandyked' edging in light blue.

**Colours** Flag pattern 1841: square white field, light blue 'wedges'. In the centre the Bavarian coat-of-arms surrounded by a green wreath; gold monograms in each corner surrounded by green wreaths. The crowned monograms were those of the different kings: 1841–48 'L' (Ludwig I); 1848–64 'M' (Maximilian II); and 1864, 'L' (Ludwig II). All staffs were black and about 2 metres long, with gilt finials in the shape of a sitting lion. Standard-bearers' bandoliers were not common in the Bavarian Army. Two battalions carried older flags:

*I Bn, IR No.5:* White field; in the centre a mantled and crowned red shield with two crowned lions.

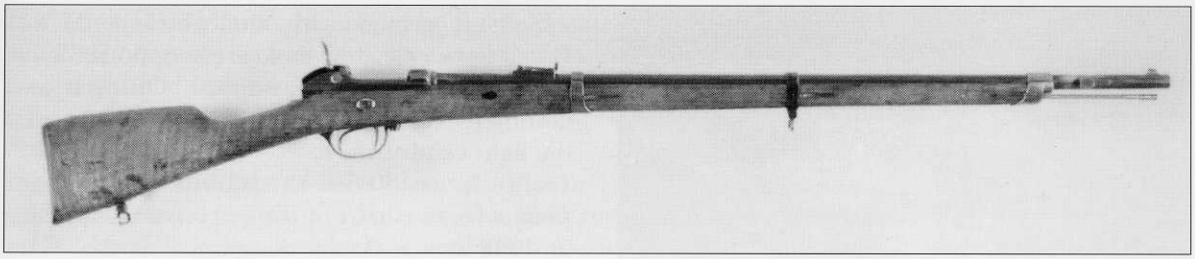
*I Bn, IR No.13:* White and light blue lozenges; in the centre the mantled electoral coat-of-arms and one lion. The staffs of these two battalions had gilt spearhead finials.

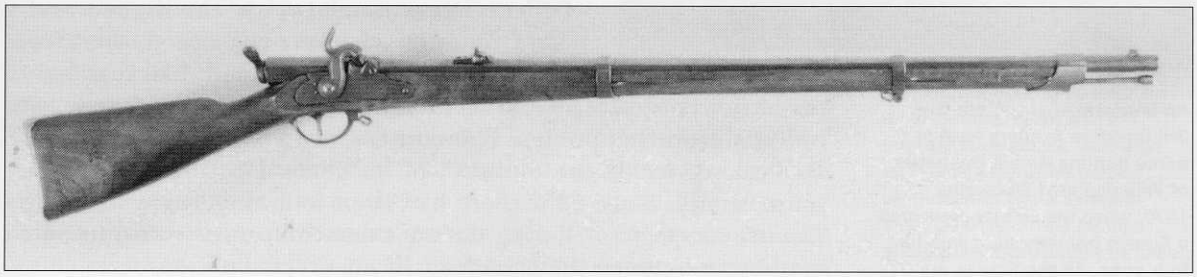
### ARTILLERY & TECHNICAL TROOPS

The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War caught the Bavarian artillery (equipped with the Zoller system) at a transitional stage, and it took the field as a less homogenous force than its Prussian counterpart. Each battery had six guns manned by a wartime establishment of 112 gunners. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were painted mid-grey, all fittings black, and the gun barrels were brass. Unit composition was as follows:

| *Regiment* | *4-pdr foot btys* | *6-pdr foot btys* | *4-pdr horse btys* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | 4 | 4 | – |
| 2nd | – | 6 | 2 |
| 3rd | – | 6 | 2 |
| 4th | 4 | 4 | – |

In September 1870 the 1st Artillery Regt was reinforced with a battery of machine weapons *(Kartätschgeschütze).* The 2nd Regt received a 12-pdr foot battery.





The artillery's dark blue single-breasted tunic had a black collar and cuffs, and red piping on the collar, cuffs, front edge and rear skirts. The buttons were yellow metal, as were shoulder scales underlaid with red cloth. The officers' pouch belt and pouch were covered with black Morocco leather, with small gilt buttons on the former. The greatcoat was dark grey, single-breasted, with seven white metal front buttons, and red piping to the collar. That of officers had a dark blue collar with red piping. Foot artillerymen had dark blue trousers with red outseam piping, worn tucked into boots. The horse battery gunners wore dark blue breeches with heavy black leather reinforcement that came up to about 146mm (5½in) above the knees.

Headgear was a crested helmet, M1845 or M1861. On 15 September 1868 the introduction of the M1868 was ordered, but before August 1870 only a few NCOs received it. At the beginning of the war officers wore a drooping red plume; but when he saw Bavarian artillery officers at Speyer the Prussian Crown Prince ordered these to be discarded, as they could be mistaken for French artillerymen. The dark blue peaked undress cap had red piping around the crown seam and the top of the band, a yellow cloth crown badge and black leather chinstrap.

**Armament and equipment** After 1866 foot gunners were no longer armed with rifles, since experience with the M1844 *Gendarmerie* rifle during the campaign of 1866 had not been encouraging; only the M1838 fascine knife was officially carried, but during the war artillerymen armed themselves with captured Chassepot rifles. NCOs and artillery drivers carried the artillery trailing sabre – the former Hussar stirrup-hilted sabre. Equipment was as for infantry but in white leather. Gunners of the horse artillery were armed with the M1845 pistol and had a black leather cartridge pouch (NCOs, with crossed gun barrels in brass on the flap). Officers were armed with the sabre of the light cavalry, on red Morocco leather slings with gold trimming. All officers had black sheepskin saddle covers with dark blue 'vandyke' edging.

**Engineers** Officers and enlisted men of the *Genie* Regiment wore the uniform of foot artillerymen but with white metal buttons. The engineers

TOP **The Bavarian M1869 Werder rifle was an excellent weapon – indeed, for its date the best carried by German troops – but it was only available in small numbers. It took metal cartridges with a base primer, rather than the paper cartridges of the Dreyse system which had to be pierced up their whole length by the long needle to strike a primer in the base of the bullet itself. Its sword bayonet was 47.9cm long. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**

BOTTOM **The huge majority of Bavarian infantrymen were equipped with the M1867 Podewils rifle, a single-shot, breech-loading percussion weapon. It had a comparatively low rate of fire of three rounds per minute and, although it was sighted to 600m, its effective range was only between 200 and 300 metres. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**

An impression of the 4th Bty, 3rd Bavarian Artillery Regt in fierce fighting during the battle of Villepion on 1 December 1870, when the battery prevented a French breakthrough with just four guns. All the figures are shown wearing greatcoats. (Author's collection)

were still armed with the obsolete M1844 *Gendarmerie* rifle, but took every opportunity to acquire captured Chassepots. Officers and mounted NCOs (including trumpeters) carried the light cavalry sabre.

**Train** From 1868 the Train detachment *(Fuhrwesen)* was part of the engineer troops, and in 1872 it was finally designated as the Train Battalion. Uniform was as for mounted gunners. Officers were armed with the light cavalry sabre; enlisted men were not armed, apart from trumpeters, who since 1849 had carried a percussion pistol. The dark blue shabraque was edged red, with rounded front and pointed rear corners.

**Medical service** At the outbreak of hostilities 175 surgeons were on active service. Since 1862 there had been four ambulance companies *(Sanitäts-Compagnien)*; during the war these companies were distributed in platoons between the brigades.

Surgeons were not mounted; they wore a dark blue tunic with scarlet collar, cuffs and piping, silver buttons and epaulettes. Dark blue trousers were piped red and worn tucked into black boots. The dark blue peaked cap was piped red around the crown seam and the top edge of the band; it had a silver crown badge above the band and a black chinstrap. Belt and sabre were as for infantry officers. Privates of the ambulance companies wore the infantry uniform with white metal buttons and scarlet facings – red wings, and shoulder straps piped red. The helmet was adorned with a red plume.

## BRUNSWICK

After signing the constitution of the North German Confederation on 17 April 1867, Duke Wilhelm of Brunswick (1806–84) had to increase the strength of his small army to correspond to the size of the population. Consequently the *Leib-Bataillon* (Life Battalion) – until then an independent unit – was attached as a fusilier battalion to the two existing battalions of the Infantry Regiment. This was entitled the 'Ducal Brunswick Infantry Regiment No.92', becoming the 92nd regiment in the Prussian (later Imperial German) line. The artillery lost its engineer detachment, and the field battery was assigned as the 'Ducal Brunswick Battery' to the Hanoverian Field Artillery Regt No.10. The strength of the Hussar regiment was increased to five squadrons, which meant a doubling of its manpower; it now took the title 'Ducal Brunswick Hussar Regiment No.17'.

The charge of the Brunswick Hussars against a French artillery battery at Mars-la-Tour. The officer on the right is the regimental adjutant, identified by wearing neither a barrel-sash nor a cartridge pouch. Officers were permitted to carry revolvers instead of percussion pistols if they chose to acquire them. (Author's collection)

From 1868 Prussian weapons and equipment were issued to the Brunswick troops; however, in matters of uniform the leadership of the state defended the 'splendour of the contingent' to the last button. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War the Brunswick contingent had a strength of

2,465 men. The infantry regiment and the field battery were attached to the 20th Infantry Division (X Army Corps), while the Hussar regiment served with the 13th Cavalry Brigade (5th Cavalry Division).

## CAVALRY

Since the disbandment of the Uhlan squadron in 1816 Brunswick had had only a single regiment of Hussars. The black tunic had five rows of yellow braid frogging across the chest; buttons and frogging rosettes were of yellow metal; piping was yellow, as were the Hungarian knots above the cuffs. The barrel-sash was white and cornflower-blue, with mixed black and white tassels. The officers' tunic had gold braid frogging and silver cord shoulder straps with light blue threads interwoven; their barrel-sash was silver with black and silver knots, and all officers wore white gloves. Trumpeters rode white horses and had 'swallows' nests' striped in yellow and black; their trumpets were brass with twisted blue and white cords.

The greatcoat was of Prussian pattern with red collar patches and shoulder straps, and yellow metal buttons. Black trousers reinforced with black leather inserts had red outseam piping, and were worn over black shoes; officers wore knee-length black boots.

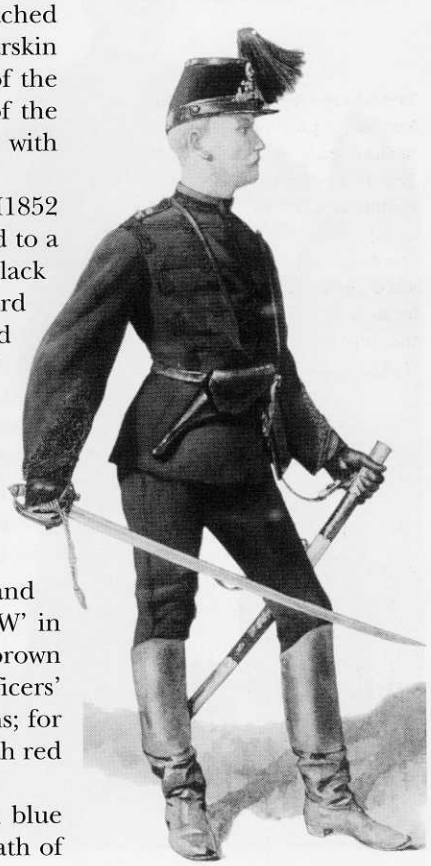
Headgear was a black sealskin busby with a red bag on the left side, and yellow cap lines. Below the Brunswick cockade at top centre was a yellow metal banderole bearing the battle honours 'PENINSULA – SICILY – WATERLOO' in commemoration of the regiment's service during the Napoleonic Wars. The chinscales were brass; and for full dress a straight white and blue plume (red for trumpeters) was attached to the front centre above the cockade. Officers had a black bearskin busby, the silver cap lines intermixed with blue silk. At the end of the year 1870 they were permitted to wear herons' plumes instead of the white-over-black plume. Their black undress cap was decorated with gold piping and the Brunswick cockade.

**Armament and equipment** The Hussars carried the Prussian M1852 cavalry sabre and M1857 needle carbine. The carbine was attached to a black sling which, in turn, was attached to the lower part of the black pouch belt. Officers wore a slightly curved sword with gilded guard and blue/silver sword knot in a steel scabbard; sergeants carried a lion's-head sabre with blue/yellow sword knot. The officers' pouch was of red Morocco leather with sides and flap of silver ornamented in gold with the Brunswick arms, worn on a red belt faced with gold lace. Troopers had a red sabretache with yellow braid decoration and a crowned 'W'; the slings were brown leather. Officers' red sabretaches had heavy gold braid decoration and a gold monogram; their slings were red with gold lace facing.

**Horse furniture** The black shabraque had pointed rear corners, and was edged in yellow braid with the yellow crowned monogram 'W' in each of the rear bottom corners. The saddlery was natural brown leather. A black portmanteau was fastened behind the saddle. Officers' shabraques were as for enlisted ranks apart from gold monograms; for field service they used a black sheepskin saddle cover bordered with red 'vandyking'; this covered the saddle holster.

**Standard** Square pattern, of white silk, without fringing but with blue and gold embroidery on the edges. On the obverse a central wreath of

**Second lieutenant, Fusilier Bn *(Leib-Bataillon)*, Brunswick Infantry Regt No.92. Although all infantry wore the black uniform with black frogging and cornflower-blue facings and piping, the premier battalion is immediately identifiable by the skull-and-crossbones shako plate, and the officer's green gloves. On campaign Brunswick regimental officers discarded the narrow silver sash and the pouch belt; a privately purchased revolver was carried in a black leather holster. (Beyer-Pegau)**



laurel leaves surrounded 'PENINSULA – SICILIEN – WATERLOO' in gold; on the reverse, a green oak wreath around the crowned title 'HUSAREN-REGIMENT' in gold.

## INFANTRY

The soldiers of the two line battalions and the Life Battalion wore a black single-breasted tunic *(Polrock)* with pointed 'Polish' cuffs'; the collar, cuffs and shoulder straps were cornflower-blue. A black crowned 'W' (instead of a company number) adorned the shoulder straps after 1867. Buttons were of black glass, apart from those on the shoulder straps, which were zinc. The tunic had ten rows of black braid frogging across the chest. A relic of the Brunswickers' service under Wellington in the Napoleonic Wars was the retention of British-style NCOs' patterned silver chevrons, edged in cornflower-blue, on the upper right sleeve: corporals, two chevrons; sergeants & aspirant officers, three; sergeant-majors, four. In addition, lance-sergeants and sergeants had a white and cornflower-blue woollen sash *(Schnurschärpe)*. Bright green gloves were worn by NCOs of the Fusilier (Life) Bn, white gloves by those of the other two battalions.

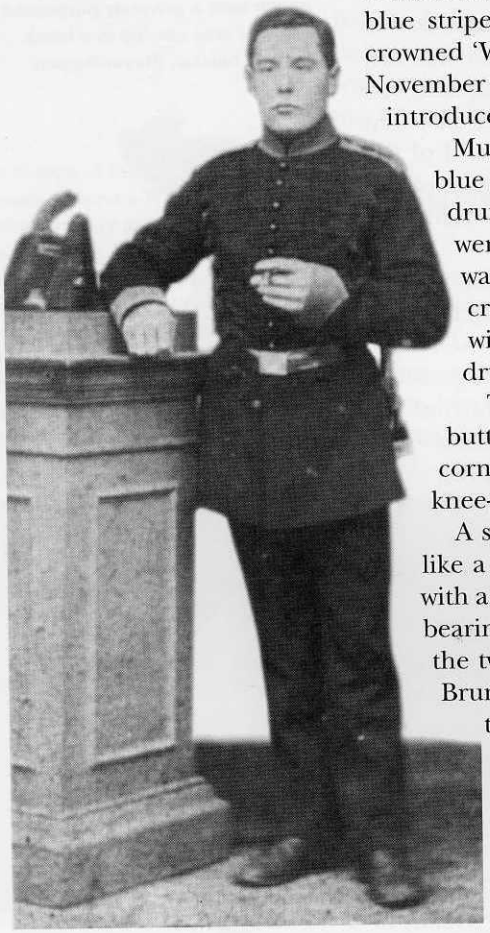
Officers also wore a black single-breasted tunic with cornflower-blue cuffs, but with just five rows of black braid frogging; the back of the tunic was also decorated with braid frogging, and the cuffs were trimmed with a black Hungarian knot. Their narrow silver sash had two cornflower-blue stripes and silver flounders. Black shoulder straps bore a gold crowned 'W' and the appropriate rank stars of Prussian pattern. On 18 November 1871, Prussian-style officers' cord shoulder straps were introduced. Officers of the Fusilier (Life) Battalion wore green gloves.

Musicians wore 'swallows' nests' of Prussian pattern, cornflower-blue with white lace. The collars and shoulder straps of battalion drum majors had two rows of lace, and their 'swallows' nests' were decorated with long, thin silver fringes. A bandmaster was distinguished by a fifth sleeve chevron below a silver crown. Drummers wore black aprons, and carried brass drums with hoops of blue and yellow diagonal 'teeth', with wooden drumsticks painted black.

The black greatcoat, of Prussian pattern, had white metal buttons and cornflower-blue collar patches. Black trousers with cornflower-blue outseam piping were worn with black, almost knee-length boots.

A small black leather shako had been worn since 1865, shaped like a French képi (including the peak). The front was decorated with a white metal eight-point star, within which was a Maltese Cross bearing the monogram 'W' in its centre. In contrast to the shako of the two line infantry battalions, the headgear of the Life Bn bore Brunswick's traditional white metal death's-head badge. Above the badge was attached the light blue-yellow Brunswick cockade, and above that a falling black horsehair plume; the black leather chinstrap had black leather buttons. The black undress cap had a cornflower-blue band and crown piping, with the state cockade.

The eight-point star of the officers' shako was silver (or gilt, for staff grades). Officers of the Life Bn had a banderole



**Private, Brunswick Infantry Regt No.92, wearing the single-breasted black *Polrock* with cornflower-blue facings and black chest frogging. Brunswick infantrymen had resumed wearing the black uniform, recalling the Napoleonic Wars, in the autumn of 1848. (Private collection)**

below the silver skull-and-crossbones, bearing the battle honour 'PENINSULA'. For field service they used an undress cap like that of the rankers.

**Armament and equipment** In the spring of 1868 all infantrymen received the Prussian M1862 needle rifle and a brass-hilted sword bayonet, which had a white knot and tassel with company-coloured sections in the Prussian sequence. Equipment was of Prussian style, all in black leather, consisting of a brass-buckled waist belt with two knapsack straps. Fastened to the front of the belt were two black leather cartridge pouches. A black leather bayonet frog hung from the left side supporting a black leather scabbard with brass fittings. A white canvas haversack was slung from a white leather strap over the left shoulder to hang low on the right side, together with a water bottle in a brown leather cover. The Hanoverian sealskin knapsack was replaced from 1868 with the Prussian type, in black or black/brown and with all metal fittings blackened. An aluminium mess tin was attached to the top of the pack. Brunswick officers did not carry packs.

**An impression of the Fusilier Bn of IR No.92 attacking the village of Chassillé on 14 January 1871. Their long black coats and death's-head shako badges must have presented the French defenders with a very sombre image – though also easy targets against the snow. (Author's collection)**

Since 1859 officers of the Life Bn had worn a black pouch on a black belt with white metal fittings. All mounted officers wore a black sabretache (reverse, bright brown leather) suspended from the left waist by black leather slings, and decorated with a silver crowned 'W'; their square-cut shabraque was black, edged with cornflower-blue. On 7 January 1869 adjutants received the Prussian pattern adjutant's sash with light blue stripes; secured by a 'bridle' fastening above the left hip, it had two large fringed tassels, and was worn in conjunction with the universal officer's waist sash. From that date the adjutant of the Life Bn no longer wore a pouch belt.

Officers of the two line battalions carried their straight swords (with a crowned 'W' in the guard) in black varnished scabbards attached to black leather waist belts. Officers of the Life Bn were armed with slightly curved swords (with a crowned bugle in the guard), in leather scabbards with steel fittings. All swords had silvered guards and silver/cornflower-blue sword knots. In 1868 sergeants had received Prussian swords with silver-blue knots.

**Colours** In 1831 Duke Wilhelm had replaced the flags which his brother Carl II had awarded to Brunswick troops in 1826, reverting to the old flags of the Napoleonic Wars. I Bataillon of the Infantry Regt received the duke's flag of the former 1st Line Bn; II Btl was presented with the old 1st Line's battalion flag. After the Life Bn was incorporated into the regiment in 1867, in 1869 Duke Wilhelm gave this battalion the duke's flag of the former 3rd Line Battalion.[1]

1 For details of these flags see MAA 167, *Brunswick Troops 1809–15*

**Brunswick artilleryman, in black trimmed with yellow. The battery fought at Mars-la-Tours and Gravelotte-St Privat, and later against the Army of the Loire. (H.Knötel)**

The 92nd IR also carried a 'Jingling Johnnie' *(Schellenbaum)*. This had been presented to the 1st Bn of Brunswick infantry in 1809 by Queen Charlotte Sophia of England. A unique feature was the downwards sweep of the horns; the horse tails were red.

### ARTILLERY

Since 1863 Brunswick's artillery battery had been equipped with six brass breech-loading 6-pdr guns; the carriages and limbers were painted black.

The black single-breasted tunic had ten rows of black braid frogging. The black cuffs were piped yellow on the upper edge; the collar was also black with yellow piping, and two bars of yellow woollen braid *(Schnurbesatz)*. Black shoulder straps bore the yellow crowned monogram 'W'. NCOs wore gold lace patterned chevrons, edged in black, on the upper right sleeve: bombardiers had one, corporals two, lance sergeants and aspirant officers three, and sergeants four. In addition a sergeant had gold lace trim on the collar and above the cuffs. White and cornflower-blue sashes were worn by lance-sergeants and sergeants. In 1867 the rank of bombardier was abolished, and lance-corporals thereafter wore one stripe. Trumpeters wore black 'swallows' nests' with gold lace, the cords of their brass trumpets being twisted white and blue. The officers' black tunic had black braid frogging, and gold braid at the cuffs.

The black-grey greatcoat of Prussian pattern, for all ranks, had red shoulder straps with a yellow crowned 'W', and black collar patches with red edging. The black trousers, with red piping, were tucked into Prussian-pattern black boots. The trousers of mounted gunners had black leather inserts. Like their comrades of the infantry, Brunswick's gunners also wore black leather shakos. Below the state cockade was a brass badge showing crossed cannons surmounted by an eight-point star, upon which was a Maltese Cross bearing the monogram 'W'. The black undress cap was decorated with yellow piping and the state cockade.

**Armament and equipment** Artillery officers carried the same sabre as Hussar officers, but with black leather slings. Foot gunners were armed with fascine knives; horse gunners carried artillery swords of Prussian pattern. From 1868 the mounted ranks wore black cartridge pouches with a flap ornament of the monogram 'W' within a brass grenade of Prussian pattern; the black belt had a brass buckle. Officers had black pouches and black sabretaches until 1886; both were decorated with a gilt crowned 'W'.

## HESSE-DARMSTADT

Although Grand Duke Ludwig III had previously pursued an anti-Prussian policy, he signed a secret alliance with Prussia after her victory in 1866. When anti-Prussian feeling arose in southern Germany in 1868, Hesse-Darmstadt vainly urged France in secret negotiations to attack Prussia. Berlin brought the grand duke to heel by threatening to invoke one of the clauses of the treaty to transfer Hesse-Darmstadt's troops outside the duchy. Ludwig had to give in and accept aspects of Prussian policy, including the Prussian military system. However, the army of Hesse-Darmstadt retained some differences from the homogenous

nature of the North German Confederation forces; its infantry regiments had two battalions instead of the usual three, although each battalion had eight companies.

### General officers' uniforms

A dark blue single-breasted tunic had silver buttons, heavy silver embroidery on a carmine collar (the collar of the undress *Interimsrock* was plain), and carmine piping on the front edge and on the dark blue flaps of Brandenburg cuffs. For parades silver-fringed epaulettes were worn, on campaign silver and gold cord shoulder straps. Silver waist sash shot with carmine threads. Black-grey trousers with two narrow black stripes on broad carmine stripe; black shoes. Spiked helmet with gilt fittings and white-inside-carmine plume. The dark blue undress cap had carmine piping around the crown seam and the top of the dark blue band; black leather peak. The Prussian Dragoon-style shabraque was dark blue edged with a narrow dark blue and a broader carmine band; silver crowns in rear corners.

**MajGen von Wittich, commander of the 49th (Hessian) Inf Bde, 25th Inf Div of IX Army Corps, in dark blue undress cap and tunic with carmine collar, cuffs, and piping. Note the silver and carmine sash fastened with a bow effect on the left hip; and the general officers' stripes on the black-grey breeches. (H.Knötel)**

## CAVALRY

The two Light Horse regiments wore a dark green single-breasted tunic with eight white metal front buttons, the front edge and cuffs piped with red. The collar of the 1st (Guard) Chevaulegers was red, with a narrow black patch with a white (for officers, silver) lace bar on each side. The collar of the 2nd (Life) Chevaulegers was white, with the same patches. White metal shoulder scales had red cloth underlay. NCOs had silver cuff lace edged red. Officers wore a silver waist sash shot through with red threads. Trumpeters had eight white horizontal bands across the breast, white cuff lace, epaulettes with white fringes, and brass trumpets with twisted red and white cords.

Greatcoats were mid-grey with red (1st Regt) or white (2nd Regt) collar patches; a small cape fastened to the base of the collar and covered the back. Black-grey trousers had red piping and black leather inserts, and were worn over black shoes. The black spiked helmet had brass fittings, spike, front peak binding and chinscales, around the right boss of which was displayed the red-white cockade of Hesse-Darmstadt. The plate was a brass crowned lion rampant with a sword surmounting an oak wreath. For officers all fittings were gilt.

**Armament and equipment** The waist belt, pouch belt, cartridge pouch (with the crowned monogram 'L' in brass) and sword slings were black leather. The officers' pouch belt facing was silver lace with three narrow red stripes, the pouch black with the crowned 'L' and two laurel leaves in silver. A dark grey water bottle was carried slung. The Prussian M1857 needle carbine was carried, and a Hessian sabre (Austrian model) with steel basket hilt, in a steel scabbard. Sword knots for the troopers had a black leather strap, with red crown and tassel for the 1st Sqn, white for the 2nd, light blue for the 3rd, orange for the 4th, and green for the 5th; the officers' strap was white/red with silver crown and tassel.

**Horse furniture** The Prussian Dragoon-style shabraque was dark green edged with a broad band

**Table C: Hesse-Darmstadt (25th) Infantry Division, IX Army Corps**

Commander: LtGen Ludwig, Grand Duke of Hesse
*49th Inf Bde (MajGen von Wittich):* 1st IR; 2nd IR; 1st (Gd) Jäger Bn.
*50th Inf Bde (Col von Lyncker):* 3rd IR; 4th IR; 2nd (Life) Jäger Bn.
*25th Cav Bde (MajGen von Schlotheim):* 1st (Gd) Chevaulegers; 2nd (Life) Chevaulegers; Horse Bty; Ft Btys; Eng Co.
*Corps Artillery (Col von Jagemann):*
2nd Ft Unit, Schleswig-Holstein FA R No.9; 2nd Horse Bty, Schleswig-Holstein FA R No. 9; Schleswig-Holstein Train Bn No.9; Hesse-Darmstadt Train Bn.

in the regimental colour inside a narrow black stripe, and white crowns (silver for officers) in the rear corners. Saddlery was natural brown leather. The greatcoat was folded and strapped to the rear of the shabraque.

**Standards** *1st (Gd) Chevaulegers:* Square field of silver material with silver fringes; in the centre a blue shield bearing the red-and-white striped Hessian lion rampant, supported by two gold lions, below a gold crown. Behind the shield a trophy of arms; beneath it, the Cross of the Order of Ludwig suspended from a black and red striped ribbon. In each corner a gold crowned monogram 'L II' surrounded by a green wreath of laurel and oak leaves. Black and gold staff. *2nd (Life) Chevaulegers:* Square field of silver with light blue wedges and gold fringes. In the centre the coat-of-arms of the Hessian Landgrave in full colours, surrounded by trophies of war. Underneath, two drums and the badge of the Order of the Black Eagle. In each corner an intertwined monogram 'L' surrounded by a wreath and topped with a crown, all in gold, the lining of the crown in red. Dark blue and gold staff.

## INFANTRY

### Jäger

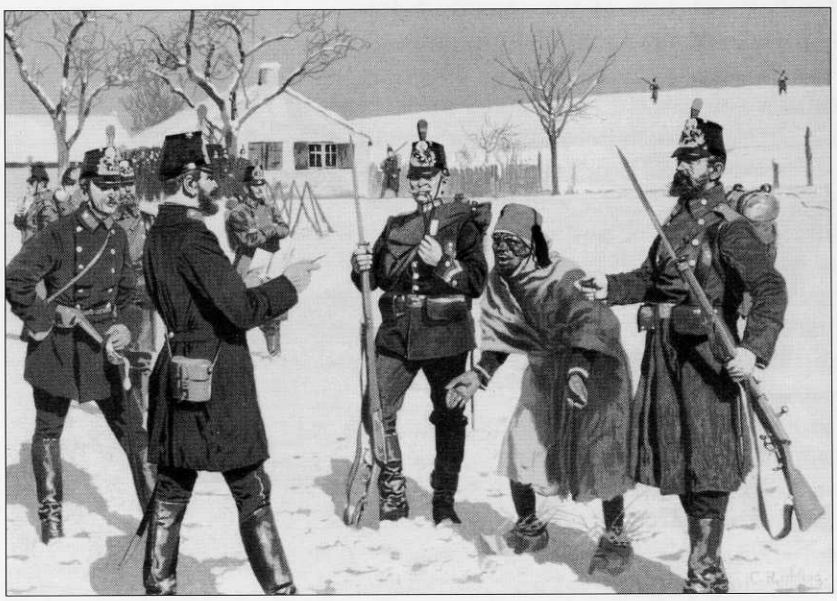
Dark blue single-breasted tunic with white metal buttons, light green collar. Red collar patches with single white lace bars for the 1st (Gd) Jäger Bn; the 2nd (Life) Jäger Bn had white patches with a white bar. Red shoulder straps with light green wings *(Achselwülste).* Red piping on dark blue pointed 'Polish' cuffs, front edge and rear skirts. Officers had no wings but red shoulder straps with three narrow silver stripes on each side, and a silver waist sash shot through with red threads.

The black-grey double-breasted greatcoat had red shoulder straps, and light green collar patches piped red (1st Bn) or white (2nd Battalion). The black-grey trousers had red piping, and were tucked into black boots.

Jägers wore a low-crowned black leather shako with peak and chinstrap. The badge was the ducal coat-of-arms, fixed below the red-white cockade, and a short plume: 1st Co red/green, 2nd Co white/green, 3rd Co light blue/green, 4th Co orange/green; all officers, green. On campaign a black oilskin cover usually protected the shako. The dark blue undress cap had red piping and a black leather peak.

**Armament and equipment** The two Jäger battalions were armed with the Prussian M1865 needle rifle and a short brass-hilted sword bayonet in a black leather scabbard with brass chape. The knots had a white strap and light green tassels; the crowns were red (1st Co), white (2nd Co), light blue (3rd

**An officer of Hesse-Darmstadt's 1st (Guard) Jäger Bn interrogates a captured 'Turco'. Note that the two officers (left) wear instead of greatcoats a double-breasted *Paletot* over-jacket slightly longer than the tunic. It bears collar patches – for this unit, light green piped with red – but no shoulder straps. On the tunic of the soldier to the left of the prisoner the braid chevron emphasises the pointed 'Polish' cuff. (Carl Röchling)**



Co) and orange (4th Company). Black leather waist belt with a crowned brass buckle and two pack straps; the two black cartridge pouches were not suspended from two hangers, as usual, but were attached directly to the front of the belt. The knapsack was of natural hide, and the water bottle dark grey.

### Line infantry

Dark blue single-breasted tunic with white metal buttons. Red shoulder straps; red piping on the front edge, rear skirts, and dark blue pointed 'Polish' cuffs. The collar was in the regimental colour, and had two white lace bars fixed with buttons at the front of each side. Regimental colours: red (1st Regt), white (2nd Regt), light blue (3rd Regt), yellow (4th Regiment). Musicians did not have the classic 'swallows' nests' but red wings with a broad white edging on the lower part.

Greatcoats were as for Jägers but with collar patches in the regimental colour. Trousers and boots were as for Jägers. The black spiked helmet had brass fittings and chinscales. The plate was the ducal coat-of-arms, and the usual cockade was worn around the right chinscale boss. The undress cap was as for Jägers.

**Armament and equipment** The Prussian M1862 needle rifle had brass fittings and a brass-hilted sword bayonet. The knots had a white strap, the eight companies of each battalion displaying the following crowns/tassels: red/red (1st Co), white/red (2nd Co), light blue/red (3rd Co), orange/red (4th Co), red/white (5th Co), white/white (6th Co), light blue/white (7th Co) and orange/white (8th Company). Leather belt equipment, water bottle, and knapsack as for Jägers. Drummers carried shallow brass drums suspended from a black leather bandolier, the hoops painted with red and white diagonal 'teeth', the sticks black.

**Colours** All of square pattern, with central blue oval bearing the red-and-white striped Hessian lion rampant, surrounded by a green wreath of laurel and oak leaves; above it, a black and red striped ribbon with the motto 'GOTT, EHRE, VATERLAND' and a gold crown. In each corner a gold crowned monogram 'L' surrounded by a green wreath of laurel and oak leaves. Black staffs.

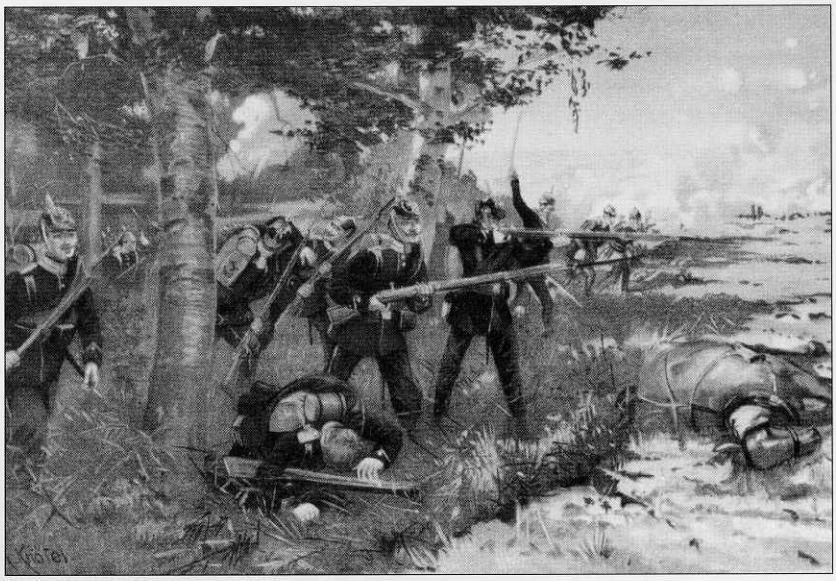
*1st Regt:* White field. *2nd Regt:* White field, red corner 'wedges'.

*I Btl/3rd Regt:* White field, wedges halved pink and black. *II Btl/3rd Regt:* Black field, pink wedges. *I Btl/4th Regt:* White field, wedges halved yellow and black. *II Btl/4th Regt:* Black field, yellow wedges.

**Drummer, 2nd Hesse-Darmstadt Inf Regt, identified by the white lace bars on a white collar. The red 'wings' are edged at the bottom with broad white lace. In 1870 the military bandsmen of Hesse-Darmstadt received different distinctions; a variety were to be seen, including an older French pattern as well variations on other patterns. (H.Knötel)**

## ARTILLERY & TECHNICAL TROOPS

The organization of the artillery did not exactly follow the Prussian pattern: Hesse-Darmstadt's field artillery consisted of two heavy batteries (6-pdrs), three light batteries and one horse battery (4-pounders). Each battery had six guns. The reserve unit had one heavy, one light and one horse battery. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were painted grey, and all fittings black. Uniform was as for the infantry but with a black collar; the red shoulder straps had no number or monogram. Gunners of the horse battery had a black leather pouch belt and pouch, the flap with crossed gun barrels in brass. Artillery drivers wore white leather belt equipment.



**Charging Hesse-Darmstadt infantrymen of the 1st Regt (double white lace bars on red collars) depicted during the opening phase of the war in summer 1870. Clearly visible are the pointed 'Polish' cuffs with a single button. (R.Knötel)**

**Engineers** Since 1849 Hesse-Darmstadt's engineer company had worn the infantry uniform with carmine facings. They were armed with the Prussian needle-action 'engineer rifle U/M'.

**Medical service** In 1870 there were 30 surgeons in the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt. One field ambulance detachment *(Sanitäts-detachement)* accompanied the troops during the war. Surgeons wore a dark blue tunic with madder-red collar, 'Swedish' cuffs and piping, silver buttons and silver cord shoulder straps; the spiked helmet had gilt fittings, trousers and sabre were as for infantry officers. The dark blue undress peaked cap had madder-red piping around the crown seam and the top of the dark blue band.

## MECKLENBURG

From the acceptance of the constitution of the North German Confederation on 1 July 1867, Mecklenburg's two constituent territories – Schwerin and Strelitz – were dominated by Prussia. On 8 August 1867, Grand Duke Friedrich Franz II ordered the reorganization of Mecklenburg's forces; the two territories had to provide 6,680 men between them. On 1 October Strelitz's infantry was attached as II Bataillon to Grenadier Regiment No.89 in the Prussian line; Schwerin's Guard Grenadiers formed I Bataillon, and the old II Btl became III Bataillon. In order to bring Fusilier Regiment No.90 up to full strength other infantry units had to provide men for its III Btl – as did the personnel of Mecklenburg's disbanded engineer detachment. By the new regulations the Jäger battalion was increased from two to four companies and received the number 14 in the Prussian line. During the war this battalion and both infantry regiments formed the 34th Infantry Brigade.

Other important changes took place in the cavalry, which had to raise a second Dragoon regiment within a short time. First the old regiment formed a new 5th Sqn; the unit was reinforced during summer 1867, and finally divided into the 1st and 2nd Grand Ducal Mecklenburg

Dragoon Regts Nos.17 and 18. Together with the Prussian Uhlan Regiment No.11, the two regiments formed the 17th Cavalry Brigade. Both Mecklenburg brigades and the Prussian 33rd Infantry Brigade formed the 17th Infantry Division.

Like the infantry, the artillery also had to form a third battalion. An order of 14 October 1867 attached Mecklenburg's artillery as the 3rd Foot Unit to Schleswig-Holstein Field Artillery Regt No.9. The Mecklenburg batteries remained in their garrisons at Schwerin and Neustrelitz; the two batteries from Schwerin had 4-pdrs, the one from Neustrelitz, 6-pounders.

## CAVALRY

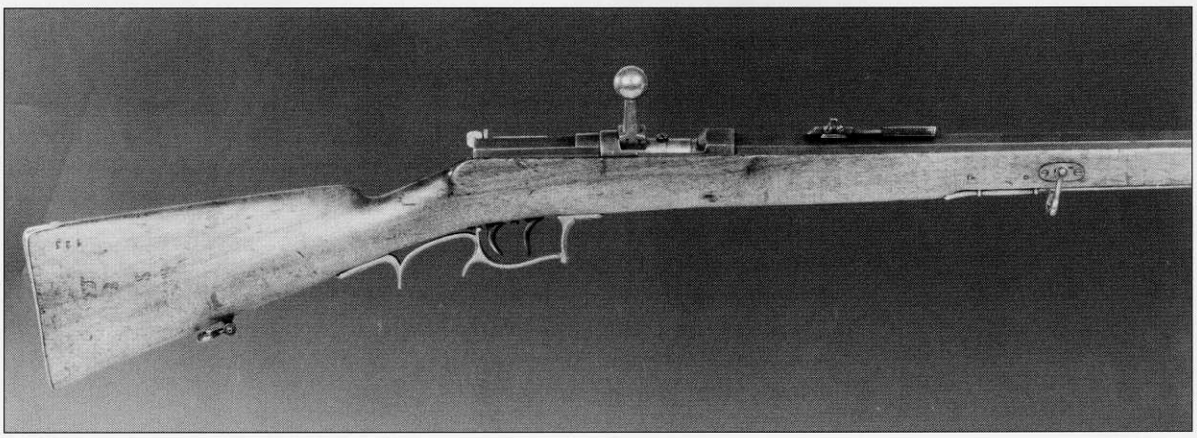
The single-breasted tunic of Dragoon Regt No.17 was cornflower-blue (darker than the cornflower-blue of Prussian Dragoons), with eight yellow metal front buttons and two on each rear skirt. Red *(ponceaurot)* collars had rounded corners and two yellow lace bars; for sergeants, gold bars, and a large heraldic button on each side; for officers, gold embroidery. Dragoon Regt No.17 had red 'Swedish' cuffs with two yellow lace bars (for sergeants, gold); No.18, cornflower-blue cuffs with red trimming. Both had red shoulder straps and red piping to front edge and rear skirts. Officers had gold lace 'bridles' for securing epaulettes, below cord shoulder straps with blue and red vertical stripes on the edges, and red cloth underlay.

The single-breasted grey greatcoat had yellow metal buttons, and cornflower-blue shoulder straps piped red. Black-blue breeches with black leather inserts were worn tucked into black knee-length riding boots.

The polished black leather spiked helmet had a rounded rear peak, and brass fittings including front peak binding and a fluted spike terminating in a small knob. The right hand boss of the brass chinscales displayed the blue-yellow-red Mecklenburg cockade. The plate was a brass sunburst with the silver oval Mecklenburg coat-of-arms. For parades troopers and officers attached a black horsehair plume. Trumpeters, who wore 'swallows' nests' of yellow striped in red, had a red plume.

**Armament and equipment** Troopers carried the Prussian M1857 needle carbine; and an M1849 cavalry sabre with brass guard and white knot (gold for officers), steel scabbard and white slings. Instead of the

**The breech-loading M1865 Dreyse system needle rifle; overall length 124.5cm, calibre 15.43mm. After several years of trials this weapon was introduced in March 1865 for the Prussian Jäger battalions. By July 1870 almost 30,000 had been produced, and they had also been issued to the Jäger units of Hesse-Darmstadt, Mecklenburg, and Saxony. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**



**Mecklenburg NCO, II Btl/ Grenadier Regt No.89. This battalion's lace and buttons were in yellow and brass, the shoulder straps red with a yellow 'FF' monogram. Note the red piping to the rear skirt; red 'Brandenburg' cuff with blue flap piped in red, bearing three bars with red central 'lights'; NCO lace around the collar and cuffs; and NCO bayonet knot in silver with red stripes, the crown, slide and tassel in mixed blue-yellow-red Mecklenburg colours. In 1870 this regiment fought near Metz and Paris, then at Loigny, Beaugency, and in January 1871 near Le Mans. (H.Knötel)**

carbine NCOs and trumpeters carried the Prussian M1850 cavalry pistol. White leather pouch and waist belts for troopers, with black pouch. Officers' pouch belts were narrow, faced with gold lace with a central red stripe and blue edging, embellished with silver brooches and picker chains hanging from a silver lion's head. Their pouch flap had the silver Mecklenburg coat-of-arms on a golden star. Their gold-laced waist belt had a central red stripe and blue edging.

**Horse furniture** Dragoon Regt No.17 used a white sheepskin saddle cover *(Lammfellüberdecke)* trimmed with poppy-red cloth instead of a shabraque; in all four rounded corners, a brass star with the white metal Mecklenburg coat-of-arms; and a white valise. Dragoon Regt No.18 had black covers with red edging, and black valises. Natural brown leather saddlery was worn over the sheepskin.

**Standards** Square white fields, gold fringes, white staffs. *Dragoon Regt No.17:* central oval Mecklenburg coat-of-arms surmounted by a crown; in each corner a medallion with the monogram 'FF' surrounded by a wreath of palm and laurel leaves, all in gold embroidery. *Dragoon Regt No.18:* In the centre, an angular Mecklenburg coat-of-arms surmounted by five knightly helmets; in each corner the monogram 'FF' surmounted by a crown and surrounded by a wreath of palm and laurel leaves, all in gold embroidery, the medallions being linked by an ornamental gold border. The standard-bearers of both regiments wore a cornflower-blue bandolier trimmed with gold lace.

## INFANTRY

### Jäger

Royal blue single-breasted tunic with white metal buttons; front edge and rear skirts piped in red. Parrot-green collar with upper and lower edges piped red. Parrot-green Brandenburg-style cuffs and shoulder straps piped red, a red '14' on the shoulder straps. Buglers had parrot-green 'swallows' nests' with silver lace and fringes. Officers wore a gold sash shot through with red and blue threads; and Prussian cord shoulder straps interwoven with red, blue and gold threads. Mounted officers had a square-cut dark blue shabraque with a parrot-green stripe edged red.

The black greatcoat had blue shoulder straps edged parrot-green and bearing the red battalion number. Black-grey trousers, with red piping, were tucked into the boots. The low profile black leather shako, with a matching chinstrap, bore a plate with an oval white metal Mecklenburg coat-of-arms inside a brass sunburst, below the Mecklenburg cockade.

**Armament and equipment** Black leather equipment and haversack; dark calfhide knapsack. Brass rectangular belt buckle displaying a white metal eight-point star bearing the Mecklenburg coat-of-arms. Brass-hilted sidearm with green knot; sergeants carried the Prussian fusilier sabre with gold knot. All Jägers were armed with the Prussian M1865 needle rifle. A brass-hilted sword, with silver knot, was carried by officers in a brass-bound black leather scabbard. Officers on foot carried the Prussian officers' knapsack

**Colour** Square white field, white staff. In the centre an angular Mecklenburg coat-of-arms surmounted by five knightly helmets, above oak leaves. In each corner the monogram 'PFM' surrounded by palm leaves, all in gold embroidery.

*(continued on page 33)*

BADEN

**1: Surgeon**

**2: Trooper, 2nd Dragoon Regiment**

**3: Private, (1st) Life Grenadier Regiment**

BAVARIA
1: Trooper, 2nd Cuirassier Regiment
2: Trooper, 1st Uhlan Regiment
3: Captain, 1st Artillery Regiment
1
2
3

BAVARIA

**1: Private, Jäger Battalion**

**2: Major, 4th Infantry Regiment**

**3: Private, Life Regiment**

BRUNSWICK

**1: Field officer, I or II Bn/Infantry Regt No.92**

**2: Sergeant, Fusilier Bn/IR No.92 (former Life Battalion)**

**3: Trooper, Hussar Regiment No.17**

D

1
HESSE-DARMSTADT
1: Private, 1st (Guard) Jäger Battalion
2: Trooper, 2nd (Life) Light Horse Regiment
3: Private, Engineer Company
2
3

MECKLENBURG

**1: Private, Jäger Battalion No.14**

**2: Private, Fusilier Regiment No.90**

**3: Trooper, Dragoon Regiment No.17**

SAXONY

**1: Sergeant-major, 6th Infantry Regiment No.105**

**2: Trooper, 1st Horse Regiment**

**3: Private, 1st Jäger Battalion No.12**

G

WÜRTTEMBERG

**1: Private, 1st Infantry Regiment 'Queen Olga'**
**2: Trooper, 2nd Horse Regt 'Prince Friedrich of Württemberg'**
**3: Second lieutenant, Artillery**

## Line infantry

Grenadiers of I & III Bns, Grenadier Regt No.89, wore a dark blue single-breasted tunic secured by eight pewter buttons, piped red on the front edge and rear skirts. Red Brandenburg cuffs had dark blue flaps piped red; on each flap three white lace bars with a centred red line and three pewter buttons. The red collar was piped dark blue, with two white lace bars. White shoulder straps had a red crowned monogram 'FF'. Drummers had red 'swallows' nests' trimmed with white lace, and white aprons; they carried brass drums with hoops in blue-yellow-red, and black wooden drumsticks.

NCOs had silver lace trim on the cuffs – two rows for a sergeant – and on each side of the collar a large heraldic button. Officers' collars and cuffs bore silver embroidery. Their epaulette crescents were silver, the 'bridles' of cloth braid interwoven with red threads; their silver cord shoulder straps had white underlay, and their gold waist sash blue and carmine interwoven threads. Both officers and NCOs wore white gloves. Mounted officers had a square-cut dark blue shabraque edged with a red stripe.

Greatcoats were black-grey with pewter buttons, and dark blue shoulder straps trimmed white and bearing the red crowned monogram. Officers' coats had dark blue collars. Trousers were black-grey (black for officers) with red outseam piping, worn tucked into black boots.

The M1867 spiked helmet of black polished leather had brass fittings and chinscales; the plate was the silver oval Mecklenburg coat-of-arms inside a brass sunburst, and black horsehair plumes were added for parades.

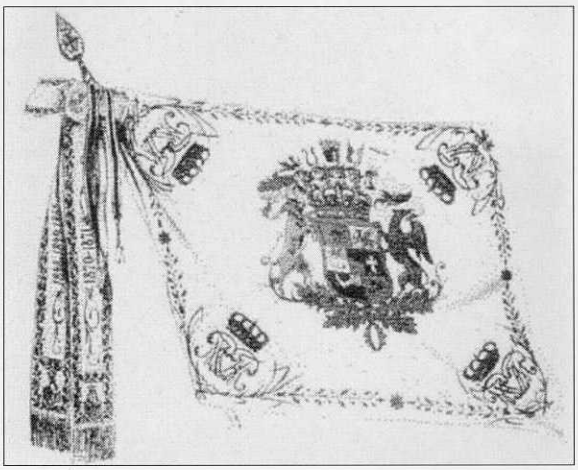
II Battalion, Grenadier Regt No.89 wore dark blue single-breasted tunics with yellow metal buttons; two yellow lace bars each side of the collar; and three yellow lace bars on the cuff flaps. The red shoulder straps (also worn on the greatcoat) bore the yellow crowned monogram 'FF'. The haversack was grey canvas. Drummers wore black aprons and red 'swallows' nests' with yellow lace. Officers had gold braid 'bridles' with red threads, gilt crescents, and gold cord shoulder straps on red underlay.

Fusilier Regiment No.90 were uniformed as for No.89 but with the following differences: pewter buttons; red collar without lace bars; white shoulder straps with red regimental number; red cuffs without lace bars; red cuff flaps with yellow piping; black haversack; black-grey greatcoat with dark blue shoulder straps with white piping and regimental number. Musicians wore red 'swallows' nests' with white lace. Officers had no embroidery on the collar, and carried Fusilier sabres.

**Armament and equipment** Mecklenburg troops carried the M1862 needle rifle, and a brass-hilted M1860 sword bayonet with a white knot. Equipment was of black leather with a brass belt buckle. A blue haversack and a glass water bottle with a black leather cover were carried slung. The knapsack was of natural hide (for officers, black after July 1870).

**Standard of Mecklenburg Dragoon Regt No.18, described in the text. It was carried until 1919 when the regiment was disbanded. (E.Fiebig)**

**Colour of the Mecklenburg Jäger Bn, described in the text. This flag was awarded in 1838 and carried until 1904. The monogram 'PFM' stands for Paul Friedrich Mecklenburg. (E.Fiebig)**



**Colours** *I Btl/Gren Regt No.89:* Square white field edged with laurel leaves; in the centre, an angular Mecklenburg coat-of-arms; in the corners, the monogram 'FF' surrounded by a palm and laurel wreath. *II Btl/Gren Regt No.89:* Square white field; in the centre, a small Mecklenburg coat-of-arms surrounded by a laurel wreath; in the corners, the crowned monogram 'G', surrounded by laurel leaves. *III Btl/Gren Regt No.89:* Square white field edged with gold laurel and palm leaves; in the centre, an oval Mecklenburg coat-of-arms; in the corners, the monogram 'FF'. *I Btl/Fus Regt No.90:* Blue field, otherwise identical with III/89. *II & III Btl/Fus Regt No.90:* Square white field edged with a narrow gold stripe; in the centre, an angular Mecklenburg coat-of-arms on a console surmounted by five knightly helmets; in the corners, the monogram 'FF' above two oak leaves.

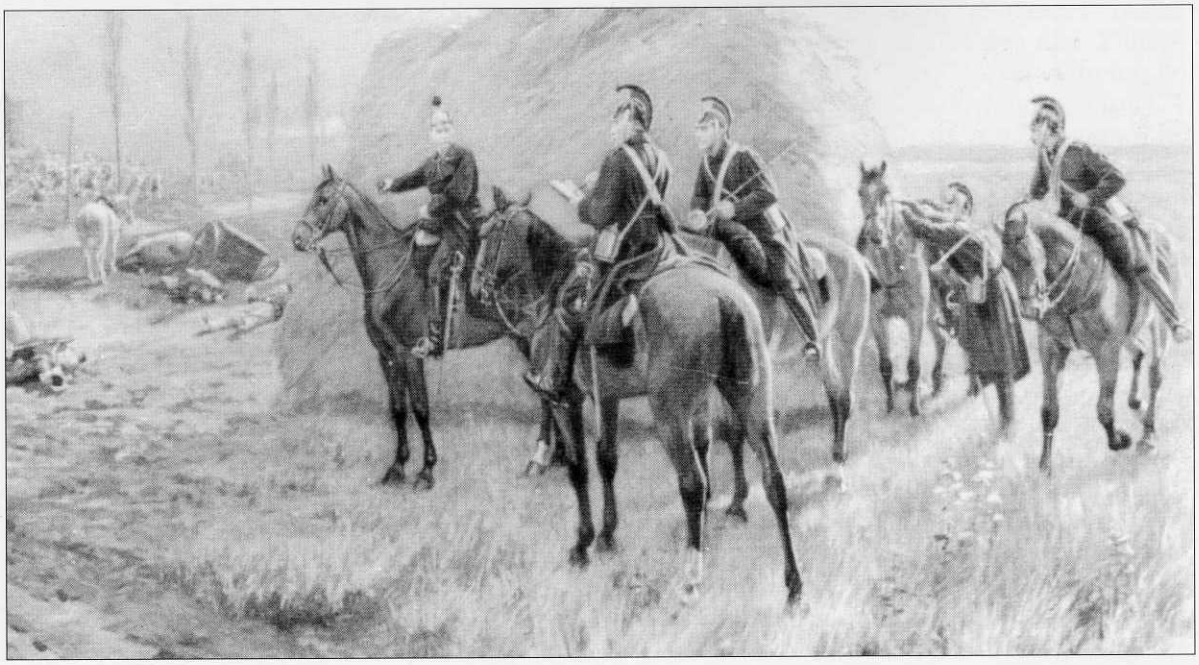
### ARTILLERY

Uniform and equipment were as for Prussian foot artillerymen but with the following differences: black collar with upper and lower edges piped red, cuff patches with red piping; black leather equipment. The gunners of the Schwerin batteries had white metal buttons, and on the helmet the silver oval Mecklenburg coat-of-arms inside a brass sunburst with 12 rays. The Neustrelitz battery had yellow metal buttons, and a helmet plate of a silver circular Mecklenburg coat-of-arms inside a brass sunburst with eight rays.

**Patrol of a Saxon Horse regiment in France. Here the pouch belt and water bottle sling are worn over the collar, but when the latter was turned up it protected the neck, ears and cheeks. Just visible on the nearest trooper is the characteristic long vent up the back of the cavalry greatcoat from hem to waist – not seen on the infantry pattern – for convenience on horseback. The colour of the greatcoat buttons matched that of the tunic buttons. (G.von Boddien)**

## SAXONY

After Prussia's victory over Austria the Kingdom of Saxony joined the North German Confederation in 1867. The Saxon army gave up its former battalion organization (four battalions made up one brigade); but although the Prussian system was adopted, the Saxons kept some



unusual uniform features. The rank of company corporal *(Vizekorporal)* was discontinued, and NCOs were no longer called corporals; a *Signalist* was now called a bugler.

### General officers' uniform

This was as for Prussian generals, but with Saxony's coat-of-arms on the spiked helmet, and red piping on the tunic hem. Collar and cuffs bore embroidered gold oak leaves. The dark blue shabraque, with rounded front and pointed rear corners, was edged with a broad gold band within two narrow dark blue stripes, the rear corners embellished with a silver crowned star. The holster covers were dark blue cloth edged in gold, with the same badge.

## CAVALRY

### Guard Rider Regiment & Horse Regiments

Pale blue *(kornblumenblau)* single-breasted tunic, secured with hooks-and-eyes – not buttons. The hem, front edge, back seams, collar and cuffs were piped white. The collar and square cuffs were in the regimental colours: white (Gd Rider Regt), red (1st Horse Regt), dark purple-red (2nd Regt) and black (3rd Regiment). Each cuff was secured by two yellow metal buttons. The front of the tunic, the collar and cuffs were additionally adorned with two alternating bands of white and regimental-colour braid (pale blue for the Gd Rider Regiment). Brass shoulder scales were without fringes.

Officers had the same uniform as troopers but all metal fittings were gilt. They did not wear a sash; only adjutants wore a diagonal sash according to the Prussian pattern (shot with green threads) when they took the field, together with a pale blue field cap with the band in regimental colour, instead of the helmet.

Musicians' tunics were as for troopers but with 13 broad horizontal bands of white lace *(Brandenbourgs)* across the front. Brass trumpets had twisted white and pale blue cords; trumpeters did not have 'swallows' nests' and carried no cartridge pouch.

Black-grey single-breasted greatcoats bore collar patches in regimental colours. The pale blue shoulder straps were piped white and bore a crowned monogram in yellow (Gd Rider Regt), and yellow regimental numbers for the other three units. Pale blue trousers, with black leather inserts and white outseam piping, were worn over black shoes.

A crested helmet *(Raupenhelm)* was worn instead of the old high-crowned helmet of black leather *(Bügelhelm)*, with a black (red for trumpeters) wool chenille. Fittings and chinscales were brass, with the white-green Saxon cockade around the right chinscale boss. The plate was a brass star bearing a silver shield with the Saxon coat-of-arms.

**Armament and equipment** In 1868 Saxony abandoned the M1865 *Reiterkarabiner* in favour of the Prussian M1857 needle carbine. With the

**Officer, Saxon Guard Rider Regt, in light blue faced and trimmed with white and with brass shoulder scales. Though only bearing that name from 1822, the regiment could trace its lineage back to 1680; since 1733 the Saxon rulers had always been the regimental colonels-in-chief. The Guard Riders fought at Gravelotte-St Privat, Sedan and St Quentin. (H.Knötel)**

### Table D: XII (Royal Saxon) Army Corps

***Note:*** In each case Saxon precedence numbers are given first, with numbers in the Prussian line – if any – in parentheses.

Commander: Gen Crown Prince Albert

***1st Inf Div (23rd) (LtGen Prince Georg of Saxony)***
*1st Inf Bde (45th) (MajGen von Craushaar):* 1st Gren R (No.100); 2nd Gren R (No.101); Schützen (Fus) R (No.108). *2nd Inf Bde (46th) (Col von Montbé):* 3rd IR (No.102); 4th IR (No.103).
*Div troops:* 1st Horse R; 1st Ft Unit, Saxon FA R (No.12); 2nd & 4th Cos, Saxon Eng Bn (No.12)

***2nd Inf Div (24th) (MajGen von Holderberg):***
*3rd Inf Bde (47th) (MajGen von Leonhardt):* 5th IR (No.104); 6th IR (No.105); 1st Jäger Bn (No.12). *4th Inf Bde (48th) (Col von Schulz):* 7th IR (No.106); 8th IR (No.107); 2nd Jäger Bn (No.13).
*Div troops:* 2nd Horse R; 2nd Ft Unit, Saxon FA R (No.12); 3rd Co, Saxon Eng Bn (No.12)

***Cav Div (12th) (MajGen zur Lippe):***
*1st Cav Bde (23rd) (MajGen Krug von Nidda):* Gd Rider R; 1st Uhlan R (No.17). *2nd Cav Bde (24th) (MajGen von Pilsach):* 3rd Horse R; 2nd Uhlan R (No.18). *Div troops:* 1st Horse Bty, Saxon FA R (No.12)

***Corps Artillery (Col Funcke):***
3rd & 4th Ft Units, Saxon FA R (No.12); Saxon Train Bn (No.12)

**NCO trumpeter, 2nd Saxon Horse Regt – note that cavalry musicians always rode 'white' horses. Regimental collar and cuffs were a dark reddish-purple, and stripes of this colour alternated with white in the lace on the collar, cuffs and the front edges of the tunic. The white lace chest bands were common to all trumpeters; and the gold NCO lace on the collar and cuffs followed the Prussian pattern. In 1875 this regiment became the 2nd Saxon Hussar Regiment. (H.Knötel)**

exception of the Guard Rider Regt, who carried a slightly curved sword with a brass basket hilt, troopers were armed with the Saxon M1867 cavalry sword. Both types were carried in steel scabbards with white leather slings; knots were of black leather; waist and pouch belts were of white leather. The cartridge pouch was black, for NCOs with a crowned coat-of-arms in brass on the flap; officers had a gilt pouch with a silver crowned coat-of-arms. A steel water bottle was suspended from a white leather sling.

**Horse furniture** Black sheepskin saddle cover *(Lammfellüberdecke,* or *Sattelfell);* for officers, a silver star in the rear corners – officers of the Guard Riders had a silver Saxon coat-of-arms on a gilt star. In 1870/71 the Guard Riders rode only brown horses. Officers' holster covers were in regimental colours edged with gold. To the right rear of the sheepskin cover was a white linen bag; the rolled greatcoat was attached to the rear of the sheepskin cover. Saddlery was black leather.

### Uhlans

Pale blue tunic with dark purple-red collar and 'Polish' cuffs, and white piping; brass buttons and scale epaulettes. Collars bore two lace bars in white (1st Regt) or yellow (2nd Regt), the cuffs a single bar. Girdle of pale blue (central one-third) and dark purple-red (outer two-thirds). The officers' waist sash was silver with a green line. Musicians had dark purple-red 'swallows' nests' with silver (1st Regt) and gold (2nd Regt) lace; bugles were brass with twisted white and pale blue cords.

The black-grey single-breasted greatcoat had dark purple-red collar patches, and pale blue shoulder straps piped white, with a white or yellow regimental number. Pale blue trousers, worn over black shoes, had black leather inserts, and a broad 4.5cm stripe in dark purple-red; officers had a slightly narrower stripe with a narrow white stripe centred on it.

Headgear was the czapka, as for Prussian Uhlans, but with the Saxon cockade and a brass sunburst plate bearing a Saxon coat-of-arms in silver. NCOs had white-and-green twisted cap lines, those for officers being silver with green silk. The white undress cap had a pale blue band and crown seam piping for the 1st Regt and dark purple-red for the 2nd.

**Armament and equipment** All troopers carried the Prussian M1850 percussion pistol, the Saxon M1867 cavalry sabre, and an unpainted wooden lance (2.90m long) with a white-over-green pennon. NCOs had a white pennon with a black lion holding the coloured Saxon coat-of-arms. Trumpeters did not carry the lance. In February 1871 the Prussian pistol was replaced with the Saxon 1870 Uhlan pistol. Equipment was otherwise as for Horse regiments.

**Horse furniture** As for Horse regiments. Officers' holster covers in front of the black sheepskin saddle cover were dark purple-red, edged with three silver (1st Regt) or gold (2nd Regt) lines.

## INFANTRY

In 1870 there were two Jäger battalions (Nos.12 & 13 in the unified sequence), one Schützen (Füsilier) regiment (No.108), and eight line regiments (Nos.100–107).

### Jäger and Schützen

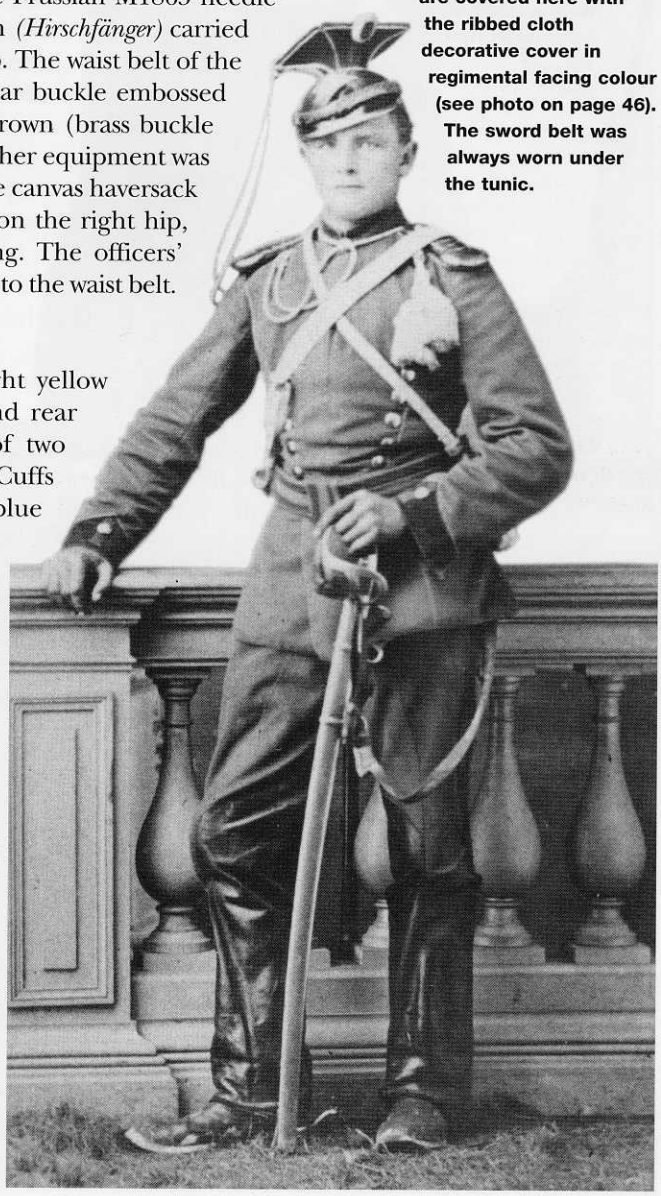
Dark green single-breasted tunic (darker than Prussian dark green), with eight white metal front buttons (brass for the Schützen). Black

collar with a narrow red trim around the base; the black cuffs, front edge, hem and rear skirts were piped red. Shoulder straps were dark green piped red; Jägers had a red battalion number, and the Schützen (Rifles) a red hunting horn motif above the red regimental number. Officers wore silver Prussian cord shoulder straps, and a silver sash shot through with green threads. Buglers had black 'swallows' nests' with white or yellow lace according to the button colour.

The single-breasted black-grey greatcoat bore black collar patches; shoulder straps were as for the tunic. Black-grey trousers with red outseam piping were worn over black shoes. Headgear was a low-crowned black felt shako with black leather peak. The badge was a brass sunburst embossed with a silver shield bearing the Saxon coat-of-arms; a falling black horsehair plume was worn on the left side (see page 47).

**Armament and equipment** The Schützen Regt was armed with the M1860 Füsilier rifle; the two Jäger battalions, with the Prussian M1865 needle rifle and a special steel-hilted hunting sidearm *(Hirschfänger)* carried in a black leather scabbard with white metal tip. The waist belt of the Jägers was secured by a white metal rectangular buckle embossed with a brass disc displaying the Royal Saxon crown (brass buckle with white metal disc for the Schützen). All leather equipment was black. The knapsack was of natural hide; a white canvas haversack was slung from a white leather strap to hang on the right hip, and the water bottle had a black leather sling. The officers' brass-hilted sword had a steel scabbard attached to the waist belt.

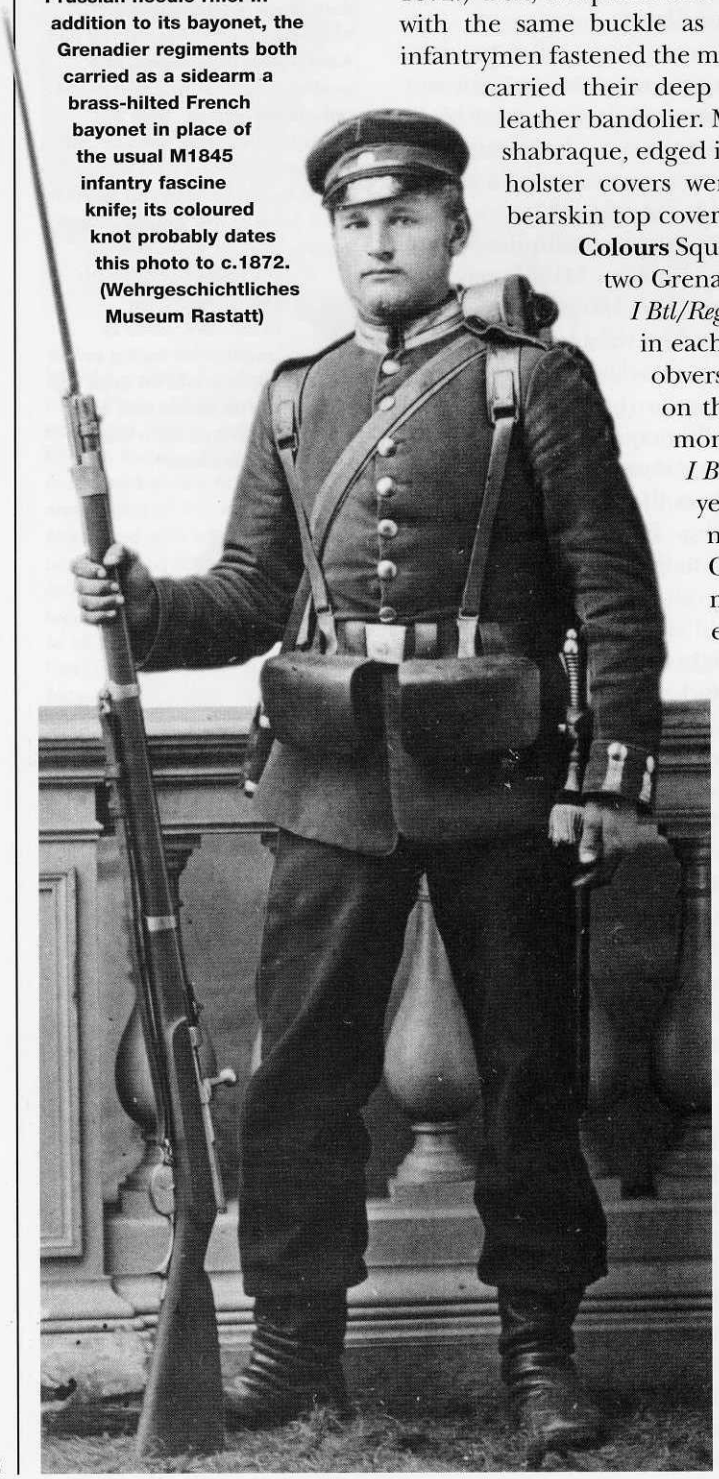
**Trooper, 2nd Saxon Uhlan Regt, in the regimental uniform of pale blue faced with dark red-purple; the single yellow bar on the 'Polish' cuff is just visible, though the two on the collar are not – yellow often prints very dark in early photographs. The 6cm wide girdle *(Passgürtel)* had 4.5mm pale blue edges, one central pale blue and two equal red-purple stripes. Note the white trim and cap lines on the *Tschapka*, and the oval white-green Saxon cockade on the left front edge of the 'mortar-board', whose 'stem' and underside are covered here with the ribbed cloth decorative cover in regimental facing colour (see photo on page 46). The sword belt was always worn under the tunic.**



## Line infantry

The dark blue single-breasted tunic had eight yellow metal front buttons; the front edge, hem and rear skirts were piped red, and a double row of two buttons at the rear secured the rear skirts. Cuffs and collar were red, the latter with dark blue piping along the top edge. The 'Saxon' cuffs were square-cut with two buttons on the rear seam. Dark blue shoulder straps were piped red and bore yellow regimental numbers or crowned monograms. The 1st and 2nd Grenadier Regts (Nos.100 & 101) had two white lace bars on the collars and cuffs. Musicians had 'swallows' nests' of Prussian pattern, yellow (white for the two Grenadier regiments) trimmed with red.

The usual black-grey, single-breasted greatcoat had red collar patches, and shoulder straps as for the tunic. Trousers and shoes were as for the light infantry. The M1867 spiked helmet of black polished leather had brass fittings and chinscales, and the same plate as the light infantry; the Saxon cockade was worn around the right chinscale boss. The dark blue undress cap had a red band and crown seam piping, a black leather peak, and the Saxon cockade on the band.



**Private, 1st Saxon Grenadier Regt No.100 – note double white lace bars on the red collar and cuffs. He wears a privately purchased undress cap. His weapon is the M1862 Prussian needle rifle. In addition to its bayonet, the Grenadier regiments both carried as a sidearm a brass-hilted French bayonet in place of the usual M1845 infantry fascine knife; its coloured knot probably dates this photo to c.1872. (Wehrgeschichtliches Museum Rastatt)**

**Armament and equipment** In 1867–68 the infantry regiments received the Prussian M1862 needle rifle; they retained the M1845 fascine knife with a 47.3cm blade. Both Grenadier regiments carried French bayonets with brass hilts; initially a red woollen tassel *(Wollraupe)* was wrapped around the hilt (but company colour sword knots were introduced in 1872.) Belt, knapsack and water bottle were as for the light infantry, with the same buckle as the Schützen (Füsilier) Regiment. Saxon infantrymen fastened the mess kit on top of their backpacks. Drummers carried their deep brass drums *(Reifentrommeln)* on a black leather bandolier. Mounted officers had a dark blue square-cut shabraque, edged in red with a thin dark blue line. The saddle holster covers were of the same design, but with a black bearskin top cover.

**Colours** Square for all regiments. Only the colours of the two Grenadier regiments had streamers.

*I Btl/Regt No.100:* White field, green and red edging; in each corner, a flaming grenade. Centred on the obverse, the crowned and mantled coat-of-arms; on the reverse, a crowned white shield with the monogram 'FAR' in red and silver.

*I Btl/Regts Nos. 101–107:* White field, green and yellow edging; in each corner, the regimental number in green (except No.101 – a crown). Centred on the obverse, the crowned and mantled coat-of-arms; on the reverse, the entwined monogram 'JR' inside the gold star of the Grand Cross of the Military Order of St Heinrich.

*II & III Btl/Regts Nos.100–107:* Green field, white and yellow edging, and inside this a green and light brown decoration; in each corner, a white crown. Centred on the obverse, the crowned and mantled coat-of-arms; on the reverse, a crowned white shield with the monogram 'JR' in green and yellow, surrounded by a laurel wreath.

## ARTILLERY & TECHNICAL TROOPS

Field Artillery Regiment No.12 – equipped with Krupp guns – differed from the Prussian model in having two horse batteries, and the foot units had eight heavy and six light batteries. The structure of the first two foot units was as the Prussian Army – two light and two heavy batteries; the 3rd Foot Unit had one light and two heavy batteries; the 4th, one horse, one light and two heavy batteries. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were painted grey; gun barrels were blackened and burnished.

The dark green single-breasted tunic had red 'Saxon' cuffs and a red collar, piped dark green along the top edge, with eight yellow metal front buttons. The front edge, hem and rear skirts were piped red. Dark green shoulder straps, piped red, bore a red cloth flaming grenade device above the red regimental number. Officers wore Prussian cord shoulder straps, a gold-laced pouch belt and a silver waist sash shot through with green threads. Trumpeters had eight broad horizontal bands of yellow lace across the front of the tunic, and carried brass trumpets on twisted yellow and green cords.

The black-grey single-breasted greatcoat had red collar patches, and dark green shoulder straps piped red. Foot gunners wore black-grey trousers with red outseam piping, while horse artillerymen had additional black leather inserts on the inner legs; the trousers were tucked into high black boots. The M1867 spiked helmet was worn with the same fittings as the infantry but with an artillery ball finial instead of a pointed spike (over which a black plume was attached for parades). The dark green undress cap had a black leather peak, a red band and crown seam piping, and bore the Saxon cockade on the band.

**Equipment** Black leather waist belt secured by a brass buckle. NCOs of horse artillery wore a black leather pouch belt and pouch with a brass monogram 'A' on the flap. Their dark green shabraque was of Prussian Dragoon style, edged with a broad red stripe centred dark green. Mounted officers had the same shabraque but with the edging of narrow red, narrow dark green, wide red and narrow yellow concentric stripes. The rear corners were adorned with yellow crowns.

**Engineers** Uniform as for artillery, but white metal buttons, and shoulder straps with battalion number '12' below two crossed tools, all in red. White metal buckle with brass device; the spiked helmet had white metal fittings. Two silver lace bars adorned the collar and cuffs of officers.

**Train** Pale blue single-breasted tunic with brass shoulder scales and buttons. Black cuffs and collar; the cuffs, top of the collar, front edge, hem and rear skirts were piped red. Black-grey single-breasted greatcoat with black collar patches, and pale blue shoulder straps piped red. Pale blue trousers with red outseam piping and black leather inserts, worn over black shoes. Black leather shako and chinstrap; the badge was the white metal Saxon coat-of-arms (for officers, gilt), below a pale blue-black cockade.

**Armament and equipment** Black leather bandolier; the sword belt was carried under the tunic. Saxon M1867 cavalry sabre with black knot. For officers, gold-laced pouch belt; pale blue shabraque with pointed rear corners, edged with pale blue, black and yellow stripes, yellow crowns in the rear corners.

**Private, Saxon Engineer Bn No.12, formed in 1867 by amalgamating the previous engineer detachment with two companies of pontoneers. The tunic and cap were dark green faced and piped red, with white metal buttons, and the shoulder straps bore a red crossed pick and shovel badge. In France the unit fought at Gravelotte-St Privat, Sedan and Paris. (H.Knötel)**

**Medical service** The surgeons' uniform was in accordance with the Prussian pattern, but the tunic remained pale blue; before 1872 the spiked helmet had no metal rib at the rear. Silver cord shoulder straps interwoven with green threads, bearing a gilt rod of Aesculapius. It is unknown whether hospital orderlies and stretcher-bearers had actually received in 1867 a common dark blue uniform with black facings, red piping and yellow metal buttons.

## WÜRTTEMBERG

After the war of 1866 the Kingdom of Württemberg recognized the foundation of the North German Confederation and signed a secret defence alliance with Prussia. The army was reformed according to the Prussian model; a new military law of 12 March 1868 introduced general conscription – infantrymen now had to serve for two years, cavalrymen and artillerymen for three years. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War the field division was put under Prussian command. On 15 November 1870 Württemberg was the last state to openly join the North German Confederation.

### General officers' uniform

Black double-breasted tunic with gilt buttons. Red collar, cuffs, and piping on front edge and hem. Gold collar patches, cuff braid, shoulder straps, aiguillette and waist sash. Black trousers with broad gold stripe. Black shoes, white gloves. Black képi-like *Dienstmütze* cap with gold band and narrow braid around the top; black leather peak; gilt Württemberg coat-of-arms plate; falling white plume with red/white tips. Red shabraque with rounded front and pointed rear corners edged with a broad gold band; holster covers in red cloth edged with gold, under black bearskin top covers.

### CAVALRY

### Horse Regiments

The four Horse regiments *(Reiter-Regimenter)* each had a peacetime establishment of 496 men divided into four squadrons; upon mobilization regimental strength was increased to 676 men. Only three regiments took the field in 1870 (the 2nd Regiment with only two squadrons), while the 4th remained at Ulm to act as a replacement depot.

The dark blue double-breasted tunic had two rows of yellow metal front buttons; red piping on the collar, cuffs, front edge and hem; red shoulder wings *(Achselwülste)*; and red shoulder straps with the squadron number in dark blue. The dark blue collar bore patches in the regimental colours: light blue (1st Regt 'König Karl'); pale yellow (2nd Regt 'Prinz Friedrich von Württemberg'); red (3rd Regt 'König Wilhelm'); and white (4th Regt 'Königin Olga'). Trumpeters had red 'swallow's nests' edged yellow, with a yellow central rosette device; their brass trumpets had twisted red and black cords. Officers' collar patches were of gold lace, with rank stars; Prussian-style cord shoulder straps were introduced on 1 August 1870; their waist sash was red with black lines.

The medium grey single-breasted greatcoat had yellow metal buttons, and cuff patches in the regimental colours. Black-grey trousers with

**Table E: Württemberg Field Division**

Commander: LtGen von Obernitz

*1st Fld Bde (MajGen von Reitzenstein):*
1st IR; 7th IR; 2nd Jäger Bn.
*2nd Fld Bde (MajGen von Starkloff):*
2nd IR; 5th IR; 3rd Jäger Bn.
*3rd Fld Bde (MajGen von Hügel):*
3rd IR; 8th IR; 1st Jäger Bn.

*Cav Bde (MajGen von Schéler):*
1st Horse R; 3rd Horse R; 4th Horse R

*Artillery:*
1st FA Unit (1st, 2nd & 3rd Ft Btys)
2nd FA Unit (4th, 5th & 6th Ft Btys)
3rd FA Unit (7th, 8th & 9th Ft Btys)
Engineer Corps (2 companies)
Train Bn

red outseam piping were tucked into black knee-length boots (for officers the stripe was not compulsory). The spiked helmet was almost identical to the Prussian M1860 Dragoon model, with brass fittings and chinscales, the latter with the red-black Württemberg cockade around the right boss. The brass spike was not detachable. The brass plate displayed the Württemberg royal coat-of-arms – a shield supported by a lion and stag under a crowned helm – above a banderole with the motto 'FURCHTLOS UND TREU'.

**Armament and equipment** M1869 sabre with white knot, in a steel scabbard attached to the brass-buckled white leather waist belt by white slings. White leather pouch belt with black pouch. Officers' pouch belts showed gold lace facing between narrow red edges, and on their pouch flaps the gilt Württemberg coat-of-arms. Two-thirds of each regiment were armed with the M1863 percussion pistol in a black saddle holster; the other one-third carried the Prussian M1857 needle carbine. Officers exchanged their pistols for privately purchased revolvers.

**Horse furniture** Grey saddle blanket *(Woylach)*; two white linen saddlebags were attached to the rear of the saddle, and two black wallets to its front and covered with black bearskin; the black leather pistol holster was to the right rear of the saddle. Officers had a dark blue saddle blanket *(Unterlegdecke)* edged with a 3cm red stripe; the front corners were rounded. Old saddlery was still blackened, new leather equipment remained brown.

**Standards** Square 'vexillum' pattern, with amaranth-red field. On the obverse, the Württemberg coat-of-arms; on the reverse, the crowned monogram 'W' in gold. Fringes were in regimental colours: lemon-yellow (1st Regt), green (2nd Regt), white (3rd Regt), and orange (4th Regiment). Standard-bearers wore a gold-edged blue bandolier; the black poles had gilt finials.

**Lieutenant, 2nd Württemberg Horse Regt 'Prince Friedrich of Württemberg', in dark blue piped with red and with gold lace and metal; note the two stars on his gold lace collar patches, and the red sash shot with black lines. The rider in the background wears the mid-grey cavalry greatcoat which reached almost to the ankles. In France this regiment guarded the lines of communication to the rear. (H.Knötel)**

## Feldjäger

The 50-strong squadron of military police *(Feldjäger)* were under the direct command of the Württemberg divisional staff. They wore a dark blue double-breasted tunic with a double row of eight yellow metal front buttons. The cuffs and collar patches were light blue, and there was red piping to the cuffs, front edge and hem. Brass scale epaulettes were worn, with a yellow woollen aiguillette (gold cord for officers). The mid-grey greatcoat had light blue shoulder straps edged red.

Dark blue trousers, with a narrow red stripe centred on a light blue stripe, were worn over black shoes. Headgear was a Kolpack of black bearskin with brass chinscales. At the outbreak of the war, due to the tremendous summer heat, the Feldjäger probably wore their dark blue undress caps instead.

**Armament and equipment** It is not known if the Feldjäger were armed with Prussian needle carbines; they probably carried the new sabre and a pistol. Equipment and horse furniture were as for Horse regiments, but officers had a dark blue saddle blanket edged green.

## INFANTRY

In 1870 the Württemberg infantry was composed of three Jäger battalions and eight line regiments.

### Jäger

The light infantry wore a dark blue double-breasted tunic with a double row of eight white metal front buttons. Light green was their distinctive colour, used for collar patches, shoulder straps, wings, and piping on the cuffs, front edge and hem. Company numbers were displayed in black on the shoulder straps; and NCOs had white metal stars on the collar patches. Light green marksmanship cords *(Schützenschnüre)* were fastened with little white metal horns *(Uracher Hörnchen).* Officers' uniform was as for the troops but with silver buttons; rank distinctions were Prussian cord shoulder straps, and a red sash interwoven with black threads, worn in Hussar fashion.

The medium grey double-breasted greatcoat had light green piping on the collar, shoulder straps and cuffs; the latter had a cuff patch with a white metal button. Black-grey trousers with a broad light green stripe were worn tucked into black boots. Headgear was a dark blue low-crowned képi with black leather peak and chinstrap, light green piping and front button loop, and the Württemberg cockade on the front of the crown. The officers' képi was piped silver around the upper and lower edges and had a silver button loop.

**Armament and equipment** At the outbreak of the war the infantry were armed with the M1867 needle rifle with iron fittings. In 1871 a new rifle

**Impression of Württemberg cavalrymen under gunfire at Villiers on 30 November 1870. Clearly visible is the pistol holster fastened to the right rear of the saddle – see Plate H2. (Private collection)**

was delivered, which closely resembled the Prussian M1862 needle rifle. The steel-hilted bayonet had a 46.8cm blade and was carried in a black leather scabbard with white metal tip. Belts, straps and cartridge pouch (worn on the front of the belt) were of black leather. A tan hide satchel *(Brotbeutel)* was slung on a brown leather strap to hang at the left side; and the knapsack was of natural hide.

### Line infantry

The tunic was as for the Jägers, but the collar, shoulder straps, wings, and piping on the front edge, hem and cuffs were all red. The collar patches were in regimental colours: white (1st Regt 'Königin Olga'); black (2nd Regt); orange (3rd Regt); green (4th Regt); light blue (5th Regt); blue (6th Regt); dark red (7th Regt); and yellow (8th Regiment). The company number within the regiment (1–12) appeared in dark blue on the shoulder straps. Drummers were distinguished by white-piped shoulder straps, and red 'swallows' nests' with white edging and a central white rosette. The shallow Prussian-style brass drums had hoops of black and red 'wolf teeth', secured by white cords; aprons and drumsticks were black.

The medium grey double-breasted greatcoat had red piping to the collar, shoulder straps and cuffs; the latter bore a patch in the regimental colour, and the shoulder straps the company number in black. Trousers were as for Jägers but with red piping down the outseams. The headgear was also the same as that of the Jägers, but with red piping.

**Armament and equipment** As for Jägers. The officers' shabraque was dark blue piped red, with an embroidered crown and monogram. Drummers were armed with a bayonet only.

**Colours** Square red fields, with fringes in the old regimental colours: yellow (1st Regt); blue (2nd); orange (3rd); light green (4th); dark green (5th); white (6th); red (7th); and pink (8th Regiment). Centred on the obverse, the monogram 'W' surmounted by the royal crown; on the reverse, the state coat-of-arms. Black staffs with gilded spearhead finials.

**Drummer, 3rd Württemberg Inf Regt – the orange regimental collar patches are hardly visible here against the red collar. Though distinguished here by the drummers' white-trimmed red 'swallow's nests', the infantry uniform of dark blue with red piping, including a low, soft képi, was confusingly similar to that of the French infantry if seen from any distance. This regiment was raised in 1716 as 'Alt-Württemberg', taking the number 3 in 1817; during the Franco-Prussian War it fought at Wörth, Sedan and near Paris. (H.Knötel)**

## ARTILLERY & TECHNICAL TROOPS

The artillery regiment consisted of nine field batteries and four fortress batteries. There was no practical distinction between foot and horse artillery as all field batteries were so called 'half-mounted batteries'. The regiment's three field units each had three batteries each with six Krupp guns; two of the batteries had 4-pdrs and one, 6-pounders. Gun carriages, limbers and caissons were painted in a brownish green-grey shade and had black fittings. Uniform was as for the infantry but with black collars. A black pouch belt with brass fittings supported a black pouch; officers had a silver-faced belt edged red. Artillerymen were armed with a percussion pistol and sabre, probably the M1850/58 cavalry model.

**Engineers** As for the infantry, but with black collars and yellow metal buttons.

**Medical service** The Württemberg Army had 32 surgeons serving in 1868. At the outbreak of the war four field ambulance detachments *(Sanitätszüge)* accompanied the troops. Surgeons wore the uniform of infantry officers with a white collar and white piping, gilt buttons and gold braid. Silver cord shoulder straps bore a gilt Aesculapius rod. Soldiers of the field ambulance detachments wore the basic uniform and equipment and carried the armament of infantrymen, but had white piping on the képi and the tunic, white shoulder straps and dark blue wings. A red armband piped white was worn on the left upper arm.

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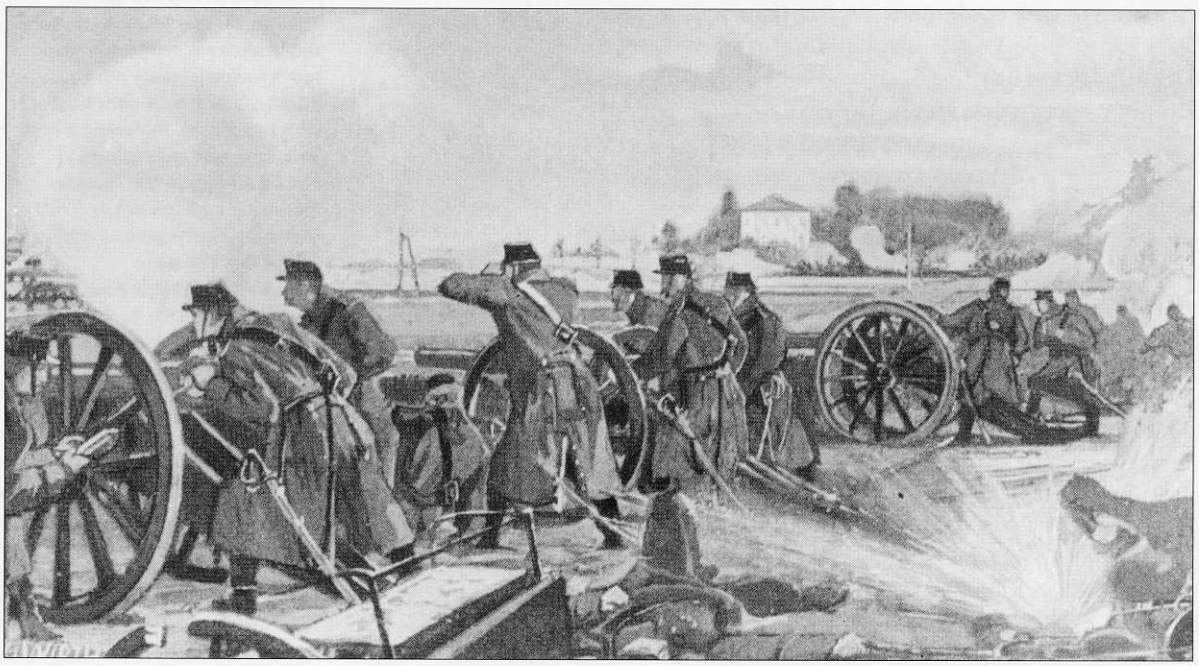
**The 1st & 3rd Btys of the 1st Württemberg Artillery Unit depicted in action at Villiers, 30 November 1870. (A.Wirth)**



# THE PLATES

## A: BADEN

### A1: Surgeon

The uniform of surgeons generally resembled that of officers of Prussian Guard infantry in basic colour and cut. The collar bore two gold lace bars, and the cuffs were of 'Swedish' cut. If the helmet was not worn, surgeons used an all-dark blue undress cap with red piping around the crown.

### A2: Trooper, 2nd Dragoon Regiment

The tight riding breeches without coloured trim and the high boots were prescribed in 1870. During the war Baden's dragoons did not ride in famous cavalry charges like many of their Prussian brothers-in-arms, but they took part in many stressful fights during security operations against *franc-tireurs*, *garde mobiles* and Garibaldi's volunteers. During the harsh winter in 1870/71 patrols of dragoons wore civilian hooded capes over their spiked helmets; in heavy snowfall several patrols rode for hours at a time among *garde mobiles* without being recognized as enemies.

### A3: Private, (1st) Life Grenadier Regiment

Baden introduced the service tunic and spiked helmet in 1848. At first the helmet was fitted with a ball instead of a spike, but the latter, as used in Prussia, came into use two years later. In 1867 Baden's Jäger battalion became III Btl of this regiment.

## B: BAVARIA

### B1: Trooper, 2nd Cuirassier Regiment

The trousers of Bavarian cavalrymen were heavily reinforced with black leather as a protection against wear and tear, and piped with red. This cuirassier is wearing the cuirass without the red lining for everyday field service. Although the body armour gave no protection against the firearms of 1870, it was effective against edged weapons.

### B2: Trooper, 1st Uhlan Regiment

In 1822 Bavaria had disbanded her lancers, but in 1863 two regiments were re-established. When the Uhlans were re-raised again it was suggested to equip them with the traditional crested helmet, but some staff officers argued that this kind of helmet would not encourage esprit de corps in the new regiments, and the traditional *Tschapka* lance cap was chosen instead. The carrying of the haversack and water bottle slung around the trooper's body rather than attached to the horse was unusual at this date.

### B3: Captain, 1st Artillery Regiment

During the Franco-Prussian War this regiment saw action at Wörth, Beaumont, Bazeilles, Orléans and during the siege of Paris. From 1848 all artillery officers had to be mounted; any officer who could not ride – or did not want to – had the choice of transferring to the infantry.

Again, note the very extensive leather reinforcement on the trousers.

## C: BAVARIA

### C1: Private, Jäger Battalion

Initially the greatcoat was intended to have shoulder straps, but an order of June 1860 reversed this. In January 1871 a better coat, made of dark grey cloth, was delivered to part of the troops. This private's weapon is the excellent M1869 Werder rifle, which only became available to a few Bavarian units in time to play a part in the war.

### C2: Major, 4th Infantry Regiment

The helmet of officers was of the same basic shape as that of NCOs and privates, but 2.83cm taller; the fittings were gilded, the cockade was silver, and the crest was made of bearskin. From 23 March 1864 officers were ordered to wear the gorget in a cloth cover of the same shade as the tunic.

### C3: Private, Life Regiment

The Bavarian infantry wore a distinctive crested helmet which had originated during the Napoleonic Wars, and the light blue uniforms which had distinguished Bavarian troops for more than 150 years. The black leather equipment of all infantry units had been introduced in 1860. The senior infantry regiment was designated the *Leib-Regiment*, which was equivalent to Guard status; note the transverse white cuff bars.

**Bavarian Cuirassiers' M1842 steel helmet, with brass fittings and black horsehair roach on the brass crest; note that because of the large size of the lion's-mask bosses for the chinscales the state cockade has to be displayed above it rather than centred behind it. The helmet was not very popular, being uncomfortably heavy and rather insecure on the head. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**

## D: BRUNSWICK

### D1: Field officer, I or II Battalion, Infantry Regiment No.92

Although Brunswick's infantry had been taken into the Prussian line as IR No.92, their uniforms retained many traditional reminders of the 'Black Brunswickers' who had fought under Wellington in Spain and at Waterloo. In contrast to company officers, field grades (i.e. from major upwards) kept their silver sashes on campaign, and until 1886 continued to wear the heavy Austrian-style gold braid embroidery on the collar and cuffs.

### D2: Sergeant, Fusilier Battalion, IR No.92 (former Life Battalion)

Although the plume hides it here, this was the only unit which still wore the traditional death's-head shako badge of the Napoleonic Wars. As well as his sash, this NCO displays the British-style rank chevrons on his right sleeve; those above both his cuffs are the Class 4 marksmanship badge. His weapon is the Prussian M1862 needle rifle, by now badly outclassed by the French Chassepot.

### D3: Trooper, Hussar Regiment No.17

The uniform worn is reminiscent of the Prussian style, but nevertheless differs from it in detail. Although the busby displayed a banderole with the regiment's battle honours from its British service, it was not until 17 September 1883 that the regiment was permitted to add the death's-head of the old Black Brunswickers beneath it.

## E: HESSE-DARMSTADT

### E1: Private, 1st (Guard) Jäger Battalion

This battalion was raised in 1861 as a sharpshooter unit and was renamed six years later 1st (Guard) Jäger Battalion. In 1870/71 the Guard Jägers fought at Gravelotte-St Privat, Metz and Orléans. In 1872 the unit became the Fusilier battalion of the Hessian Lifeguard Regiment No.115.

***Tschapka*, 1st Saxon Uhlan Regiment. The 'stem' – the lower part of the 'mortar-board' – is covered here with detachable ribbed cloth (1st Regt, white; 2nd Regt, dark red-purple), its corners and edges trimmed with white piping. (Militärhistorisches Museum Dresden)**

### E2: Trooper, 2nd (Life) Light Horse Regiment

Raised in 1859, the *Leib Chevauleger Regiment* fought during the Franco-Prussian War at Mars-la-Tour, Gravelotte-St Privat, Metz, Beaune-la-Rolande, Orléans and Beaugency. In 1872 it received the designation Dragoon Regiment No.24 in the Imperial German line.

### E3: Private, Engineer Company

As an alternative to the spiked helmet, Hesse-Darmstadt's engineers also wore a dark blue undress cap with carmine red piping and a black leather peak. The habit of wearing the trousers tucked inside the boots had resulted in longer boots, first in Prussia, and later in the other German states. In 1872 the engineer company was disbanded, and the personnel formed the 9th Company of the 3rd Hessian Infantry Regiment No.117. In the same year the Hessian uniform changed to conform in full to the Prussian system.

## F: MECKLENBURG

### F1: Private, Jäger Battalion No.14

This unit had been raised as a light infantry battalion in 1831; the traditional low képi was replaced in 1868 with this Jäger shako. During the harsh winter of 1870/71 the Mecklenburg Jägers wore short, warm jackets over their royal blue uniforms, which sometimes led to other German troops mistaking them for *franc-tireurs*.

### F2: Private, Fusilier Regiment No.90

The Prussian influence on this uniform is enormous: a dark blue tunic, black-grey trousers piped with red, and the

**Bavarian water bottle. As water bottles made of sheet metal were not easy to clean or keep free of rust, on 11 March 1837 the procurement of 3,000 glass flasks was ordered for the Bavarian expeditionary corps in Greece. In 1841 about 12,000 glass water bottles, with an edging of zinc at the mouth and a leather cover, were finally ready for delivery. (Bayerisches Armeemuseum Ingolstadt)**

**Shako of a Saxon Jäger. The black horsehair plume was tied with a bow at the left hand side and retained by a small black leather buckled strap. Except for parade and orderly dress the shako was always protected with a black waxed cloth cover. (Militärhistorisches Museum Dresden)**

spiked leather helmet. The equipment is also of Prussian pattern, and his rifle is the Prussian M1862 needle rifle.

**F3: Trooper, Dragoon Regiment No.17**

This regiment was raised in 1819 as a Light Horse unit and became Dragoons in 1837. Note that the 'cornflower-blue' shade of the uniform is darker than that of Prussian dragoons – this term was used for differing colours in different parts of Germany. The basket-hilted sabre of the Mecklenburg Dragoons closely resembled the Prussian M1852 cavalry sabre. During the Franco-Prussian War the regiment fought at Metz, Toul, Loigny-Poupry, and Beaugny-Cravant.

## G: SAXONY

**G1: Sergeant-major, 6th Infantry Regiment No.105**

This unit was the old 6th IR of the Saxon line, which served in the 3rd Saxon (Prussian 47th) Infantry Brigade of the 2nd Saxon (Prussian 24th) Infantry Division. The 'reporting book' tucked into the tunic front is a mark of his status as the senior NCO of his company. The 'Saxon' cuff is one of the few differences from the Prussian line infantry uniform. The collar button *(Decorationsknopf)* of Saxon lance-corporals and NCOs showed the crowned Saxon coat-of-arms above an Order cross, with two standing lion supporters. In the spring of 1871 all sergeant-majors received the sabre of infantry officers to replace the former pattern with a smooth iron grip; their silver braid sword knot was without green threads. In contrast to the Prussian custom the scabbard was not made of leather but of sheet steel.

**G2: Trooper, 1st Horse Regiment**

When the Saxon Army adopted uniforms according to the Prussian pattern in 1867, the cavalry kept the pale blue shade of their former tunics, and the artillery retained their dark green colour. The cavalrymen of the three Horse regiments and the Guard Rider Regiment received a crested helmet with a star-shaped plate and the Saxon coat-of-arms. In 1871 high riding boots of Prussian Dragoon pattern and tight breeches were introduced.

**G3: Private, 1st Jäger Battalion No.12**

During the campaign of 1866 the Saxon infantry had set out to war with large peaked caps, but a year later these were exchanged for low-crowned felt shakos with a falling horsehair plume; this was usually protected with an oilskin cover when in the field. The green of the Jäger tunic was darker than the Prussian shade. The Saxon 1st Jäger Bn (No.12 in the Prussian sequence) fought at Gravelotte-St Privat, Beaumont, Sedan, Paris and St Quentin.

## H: WÜRTTEMBERG

**H1: Private, 1st Infantry Regiment 'Queen Olga'**

In contrast to the Prussian infantry uniform, the Württemberg tunic was double-breasted, and the soldiers wore this peaked service cap. The white collar patches identify the premier line unit, IR No.1 'Königin Olga', and note company number on shoulder straps.. The ammunition pouch, holding 50 cartridges, could be slid around the belt into a comfortable position when in action; and when the greatcoat was worn the skirts could be buttoned back – adding to the dangerously close resemblance to the French infantry uniform. A satchel slung at the left waist was used to hold a fork and spoon, a pipe with tobacco pouch, a cup, and a bottle of spirits.

**H2: Trooper, 2nd Horse Regiment 'Prince Friedrich of Württemberg'**

In 1870 the cavalrymen, who had discarded their lances after the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, set out to war with spiked helmets instead of the traditional peaked service caps. When not worn the greatcoat was usually rolled and carried across the body. During the winter months of 1870/71 the boots were replaced by Prussian Cuirassier boots. This trooper is one of the majority of his regiment who carried the M1863 percussion pistol in a saddle holster.

**H3: Second lieutenant, Artillery**

In 1864 Württemberg's artillerymen had to exchange their royal blue tunics for dark blue; the facings remained black, the piping and the troops' shoulder 'wings' red, and the buttons white metal. On dress occasions the dark blue képi was decorated with a black horsehair plume.

**The Saxon white metal water bottle was always carried without a felt cover, slung from a black (infantry) or white (cavalry) leather strap. This example was used by a private of Infanterie Regiment No.106. (Militärhistorisches Museum Dresden)**

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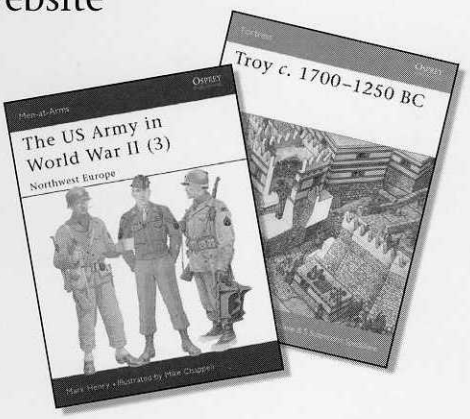


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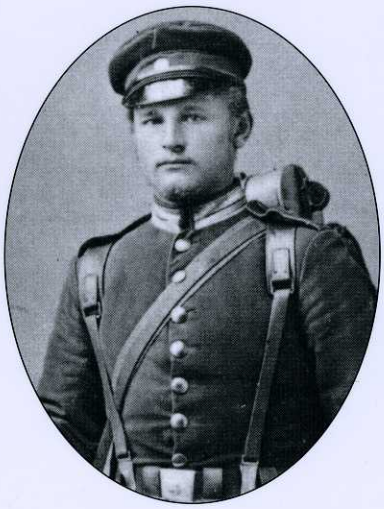

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